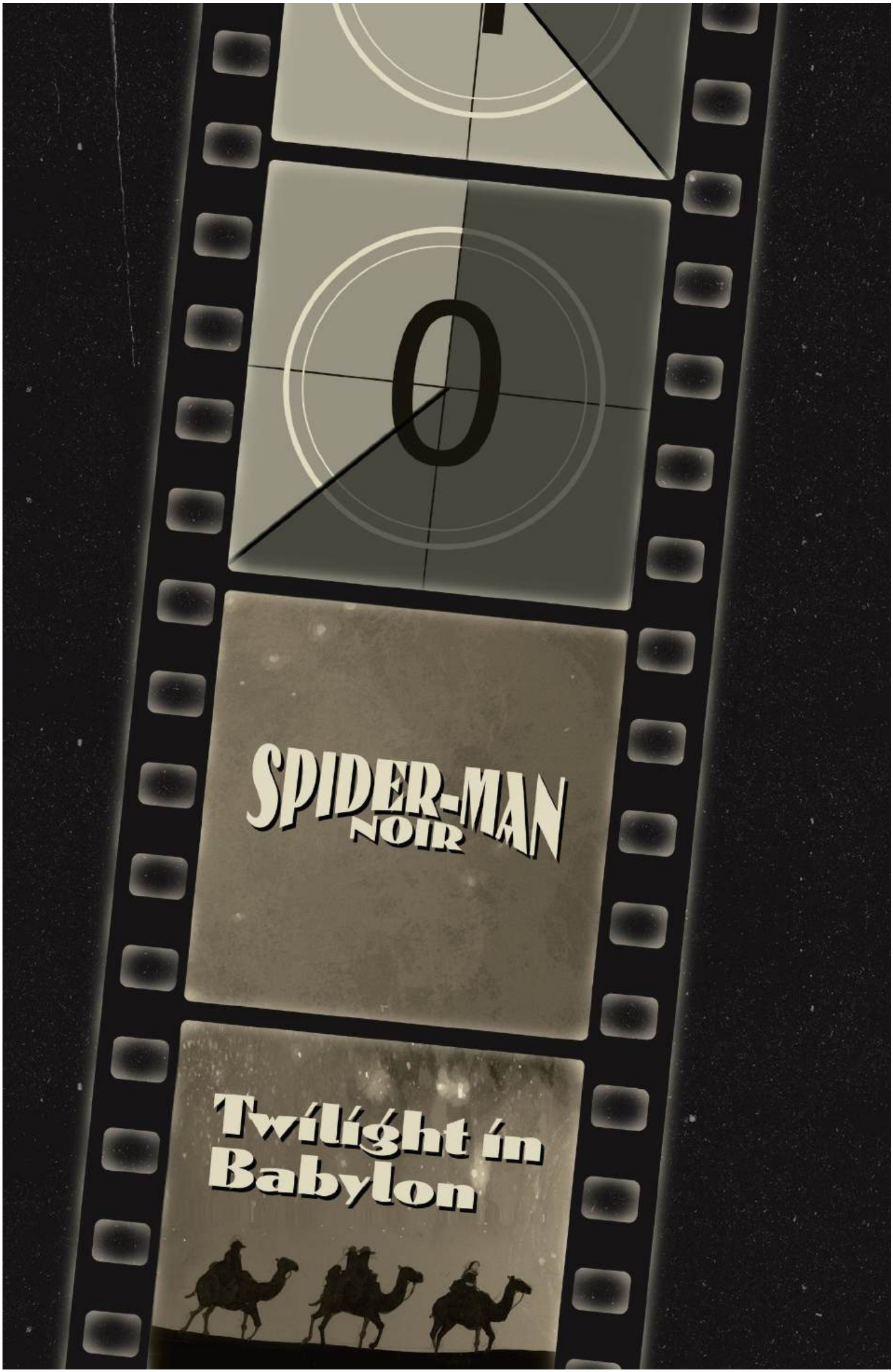
"A brilliant and fascinating take on the old web-slinger."
– Major Spoilers
SPIDER-MAN
NOIR
STOHL
FERREYRA
TWILIGHT IN BABYLON
MARVEL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SPIDER-MAN
NOIR
Twilight in Babylon

NEW YORK CITY. 1939.

IN AN ERA OF MOBSTERS AND MONSTERS, CRIME AND CORRUPTION RUN RAMPANT THROUGH THE CITY'S STREETS.

FOR A TIME, THE PEOPLE WERE PROTECTED BY **THE SPIDER-MAN**, A MASKED VIGILANTE WHO COULD CLIMB UP WALLS AND SWING FROM WEBS WHILE BRANDISHING A COLT .45.

AND THEN HE VANISHED AND WAS PRESUMED DEAD.

BUT AFTER A NAZI ZEPPELIN WAS BROUGHT DOWN OVER MIDTOWN BY A PAIR OF WALL-CRAWLING INTERLOPERS, WHISPERS OF HIS RETURN HAVE BEGUN ANEW.

SPIDER-MAN NOIR

Twilight in Babylon

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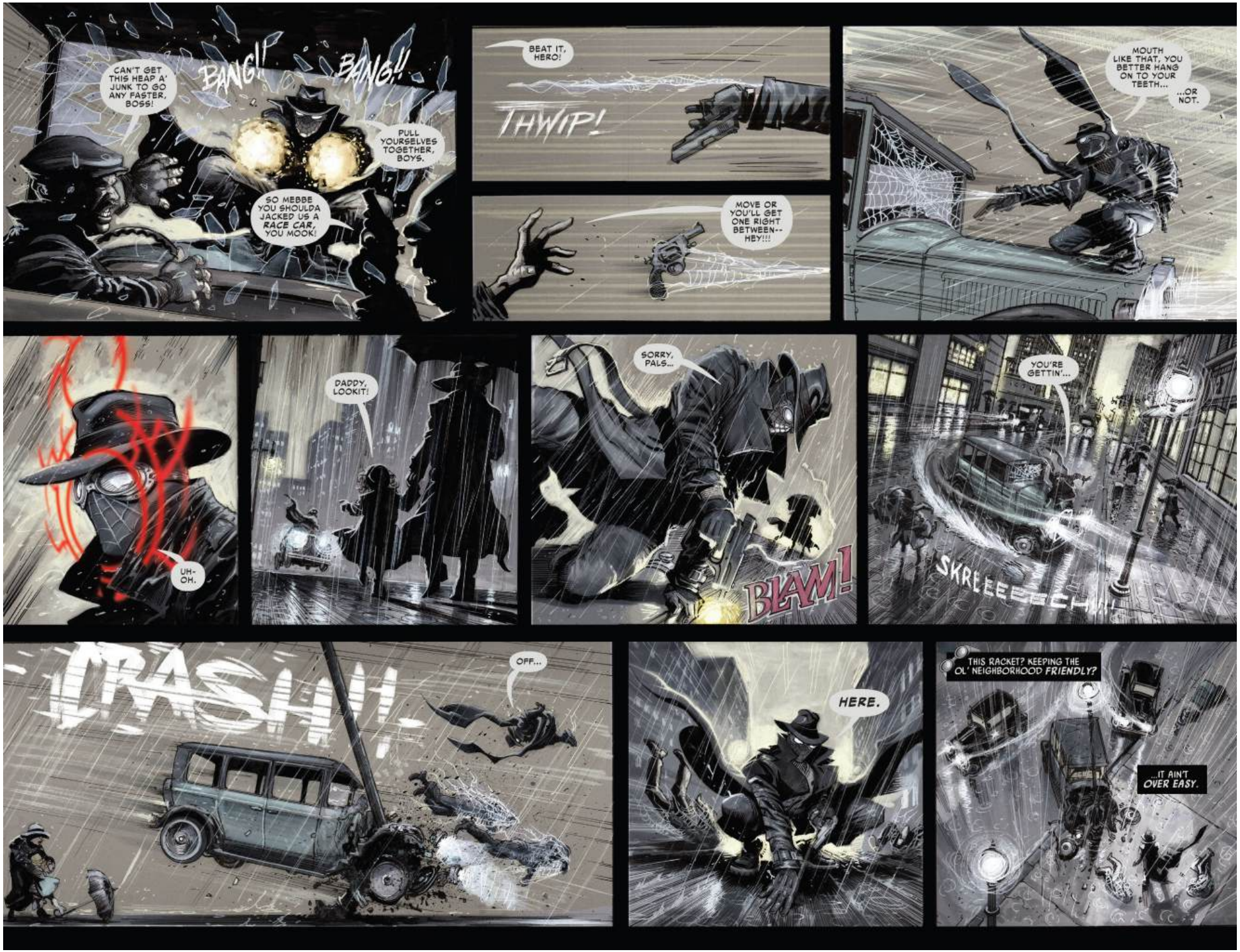
Midtown Manhattan.
Peter Parker, private eye.
Lunch hour.
...AND NOW BACK TO 'IT AIN'T THE FUNNY PAPERS'... RADIO NYC'S TRUE CRIME HOUR, RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES...
...AMERICA IS ON EDGE AS THE WORLD FALLS UNDER THE GROWING SHADOW OF WAR...
...BUT FOR THE CRIME FAMILIES AND CARD SHARKS, GANGSTERS AND GOODFELLAS, MUGS AND MUSCLES, SCHEMERS AND SUPER VILLAINS...
...WILL THE BIG APPLE'S BIG WORMS PLAY NICE JUST BECAUSE THE THIRD REICH IS ON THE RISE?
DAILY BUGLE
HITLER
BABYLON
THE DAILY EXP
MUSSOLINI MAKES HIS MOVE
The New York Times
CHURCHILL WARNS OF WAR
WHADDAYA THINK, DING-DING?
BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG
HUH?! WHAT'S THE RACKET?!
NOT DURING LUNCH, FELLAS.
NOT IN THE RAIN.
YAWN.

NOT AT MY BANK.
BANG BANG BANG BA
NOT ON MY STREET.

THE SPIDER-MAN?! I HEARD HE WAS DEAD!
AND NOT ON MY WATCH.
THUD
RATTATATATAT
RATTATAT
WHAT THE...?


CAN'T GET THIS HEAP A' JUNK TO GO ANY FASTER, BOSS!
BANG!
BANG!!
PULL YOURSELVES TOGETHER, BOYS.
SO MEBBE YOU SHOULDA JACKED US A RACE CAR, YOU MOOK!
BEAT IT, HERO!
THWIP!
MOVE OR YOU'LL GET ONE RIGHT BETWEEN-- HEY!!!
MOUTH LIKE THAT, YOU BETTER HANG ON TO YOUR TEETH...
...OR NOT.
UH-OH.
DADDY, LOOKIT!
SORRY, PALS...
BLAM!
YOU'RE GETTIN'...
SKREEEEECH!!
CRASH!
OFF...
HERE.
THIS RACKET? KEEPING THE OL' NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDLY?
...IT AIN'T OVER EASY.

HEYA, PARKER!
DIDN'T TAKE YOU FOR THE STREET BEAT, JAMESON.
OH, I'M NOT HERE FOR THESE TWO-BIT PUNKS. JUST ON MY WAY UP TO THE BLACK CAT.
THE BLACK CAT? FELICIA'S CLUB?
DIDN'T YOU SEE THE HEADLINES?
GOT A LITTLE... DISTRACTED.
LAST NIGHT. THE CAT GOT SCRATCHED.
HOW BAD?
BUGLE
BLACK CAT GETS SCRATCHED
HARD HIT ON HARDY SPEAKEASY.
IT AIN'T GOOD. C'MON.

FELLAS.
PLACE IS CRAWLING WITH COPPERS, BUT THEY'LL LET A COUPLE A' MOOKS WALK THE CRIME SCENE JUST LIKE THAT?
NOW HIRING.
I GAVE TO THE PRECINCT. KICKED IN A FEW CLAMS FOR THE POLICEMAN'S BALL. SHOULD BUY US MAYBE TEN MINUTES...
SO WALK FAST. I GOT IT.
JOINT TOOK A REGULAR BEATING.
SOMETHING DOESN'T ADD UP.
YOU'RE TELLING ME. LOOKS LIKE THE KINGPIN'S BOYS, BUT WHO LEAVES A BUNCH A' C'S IN THE REGISTER?
I KNOW HER.
YEAH? WHO'S THE BROAD? SHE'S A REAL LOOKER.
HOLLY BABSON. WAITRESS WITH A NOSE FOR TROUBLE... WHICH COMES IN HANDY WHEN YOU MOONLIGHT AS A POLICE INFORMANT.
HOW D'YA LIKE THAT OLD SONG?
I DON'T. SWEET KID. DIDN'T DESERVE TO GET THE BUMP, NOT LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S IN HER MITT?
SOME KIND OF JEWELRY? MAYBE A BROOCH? NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.
DAMES AND SHINY STUFF. THEY'RE LIKE CROWS. AND THAT'S ONE BIG ROCK.
BIG ENOUGH TO KILL FOR?
YOU'RE THE PRIVATE EYE, YOU TELL ME.
WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE TO YOU? THAT SHAPE?
A BEETLE?
A CLUE.
THAT'S WHAT I WAS HOPING. YOU MAKE THE KILLER, I MAKE THE STORY.
SAME OLD SONG, JAMESON.
TIME'S UP. YOU TWO-- OUTTA HERE.

LAST MONTH I HAD TO TAKE OUT A REGULAR BLIMP FULL OF NAZIS OVER THE HUDSON.
NOW FELICIA'S JOINT GETS THE BEATDOWN AND HOLLY GETS ICED? WHILE I'M, WHAT? OFF CHASING BANK ROBBERS?
THINGS ARE GETTING DARK. I CAN FEEL IT.
THE SHADOW...
THE CHAOS...
...OF WAR.
IT'S CROSSED THE POND.
TWILIGHT ALL THE TIME NOW.
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP IT.
I CAN'T DO EVERYTHING.
BUT IF I CAN'T? WHO CAN?
WHO CAN WHAT, PETE?
RHETORICAL QUESTION, MARY JANE.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AUNT MAY.
THANK YOU, PETER... MARY JANE, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU REMEMBERED. THIS CAKE!
I GOT OFF EARLY FROM MY SHIFT AT THE CENTER. WE'VE BEEN TRAINING A WHOLE GROUP OF NEW GIRLS.
I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, MY DEAR.
IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY CENTER. I JUST WORK THERE.
BUT THE GIRLS LOVE YOU SO.
ABOUT THAT. DID EITHER OF YOU HAPPEN TO SEE THE PAPERS TODAY...? HOLLY BABSON...
DEAD. I KNOW. AND HER LIFE WAS JUST TURNING AROUND.
WHAT?!
SHE WAS SO EXCITED TO GET THAT GIG.
I'M SO SORRY, MARY JANE.
WHEN D'YOU LAST SEE HER?
MONDAY...
I WAS HOPING SHE'D HELP A FEW MORE OF OUR GIRLS GET PLACED AT THE BLACK CAT, BUT SHE SAID THEY WEREN'T HIRING. ALL FULL UP.
BLACK CAT WON'T BE HIRING ANYONE ANYTIME SOON.
DON'T SUPPOSE YOU EVER SAW HOLLY WEARING... THIS?
NONE OF OUR GIRLS HAVE A DIME, PETER.
FIGURED. SO WHY'D SHE HAVE THIS ROCK IN HER HAND WHEN... YOU KNOW.
SHH. EVENING HOUR--IT'S STARTING.
RADIO NYC'S TRUE CRIME HOUR, RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES...
AS TENSIONS RISE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC, NEW YORK CITY IS WAGING ITS OWN WAR...ON CRIME...

...N.Y.P.D. WON'T REST UNTIL IT CLOSES THE BOOKS ON THE BRUTAL CASE OF THE ATTACK AT BLACK CAT...
BROOCH. ANIMAL-AND/OR INSECT-THEMED. ANCIENT. GEM CUT. RARE. VALUABLE...
INSIDE VOICES, PLEASE.
YES, MA'AM.
LATE ANTIQUITY? EARLY MIDDLE AGES? BYZANTINE? CAN'T WE JUST SAY OLD?
SHHUSHH!!!
YES, MA'AM.
LIBRARIANS. THEY REALLY DO A NUMBER ON YOUR HEAD. MY SPIDER-SENSES ARE LIGHTING UP LIKE TIMES SQUARE...
THERE YOU ARE. YOU'RE NOT A BEETLE. YOU'RE A...CICADA? BABYLONIAN? BUT HOW'D YOU GET INTO THE HANDS OF A WAITRESS AT THE BLACK CAT...
...AND YOU THINK I CAN RIP THIS PAGE OUT? I'LL PUT IT BACK, I SWEAR...
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.
YES, M--
Riiip
HEY, WHO CUT THE LIGHTS?!
POWER MUSTA GONE OUT!
INSIDE VOICES!!!
ZZZZZZT. ZZZTT.
CLICKK!!

KRRRR-KRASHH!!!
DON'T THINK THAT WAS A LIBRARIAN.
HOLY TOLEDO!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
NOBODY PANIC. OUR GENERATORS SHOULD BE BACK ON IN THREE... TWO... ONE...
"HOLY TOLEDO" IS RIGHT. MY BOOK... THAT PAGE...
GONE?! BUT IT WAS THERE A SECOND AGO...
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF. DEFACING LIBRARY PROPERTY. I EXPECTED BETTER FROM A... BYZANTINIST.
BUT...

LOOKS LIKE MY MISSING PAGE IS MAKING A BREAK FOR IT. NO TIME TO ARGUE.
YES, MA'AM.
WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY'RE FAST. FASTER THAN ME.
CAN'T LET THEM MAKE IT TO THE--
--STREET.
GREAT.
LOST 'EM. AND I HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE WHERE THEY'LL BE NEXT.
WHAT THE--
TWILIGHT in BABYLON
A TRAVELING EXHIBITION
COMING TO AMERICA FOR THE FIRST TIME, THANKS TO THE NEUE MUSEUM OF BERLIN
TREASURES FROM THE SIXTEENTH EXCAVATION OF URUK, MESOPOTAMIA ONE OF THE OLDEST CIVILIZATIONS ON EARTH
at THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM of ART
"TWILIGHT IN BABYLON"? AT THE MET? WELL, YOU DON'T SAY...
WELL...
MAYBE I HAVE ONE CLUE.

Metropolitan Museum of Art.
HULLO?
I'M LOOKING FOR THE CURATOR OF THE, UH, BABYLON EXHIBIT...
YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK A LOT HARDER THAN THAT. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE FROM GERMANY THREE DAYS AGO. NEVER SHOWED UP.
IS THERE ANOTHER CURATOR?
THIS IS THE MET, PAL. WE'RE LOUSY WITH 'EM.
HOW ABOUT...A BYZANTINIST?
YOU'RE LOOKING AT HER.
BUT...YOU... YOU'RE...
YEAH, I GET THAT A LOT.
SORRY. YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF SOMEONE I KNOW. WELL... KNEW.
YEAH? MAYBE I KNOW HER TOO.
DEPENDS. YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT? MY SISTER HAS ONE JUST LIKE IT.
FOUND IT ON A WAITRESS NAMED HOLLY BABSON--
OR HELGA BERGMANN. MY SISTER WANTS TO BE... MORE AMERICAN. I'M HUMA. DR. HUMA BERGMANN.
I'M AFRAID I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS, DR. BERGMANN.
HELGA WAS HOLDING THIS...
PLEASE, NO--
...WHEN SHE DIED.
I...I CAN'T...
WHOA. TAKE IT EASY, DOC. DON'T GO FAINTING ON ME, NOW.
I THINK... I THINK I NEED SOME AIR.
THE CICADA STONE DATES BACK TO 600 A.D. DR. HELLSTROM WAS GOING TO CARRY IT BY HAND FROM BERLIN. TOO VALUABLE TO SHIP.
VALUABLE ENOUGH TO KILL FOR? HOW'D IT WIND UP IN YOUR SISTER'S HANDS? GIFT FROM THE MISSING DOC?
IMPOSSIBLE. HELGA AND HEINRICH DON'T...DIDN'T... EVEN KNOW EACH OTHER, MR. PARKER.
HEINRICH? YOU TWO CLOSE?
NOT AS CLOSE AS I THOUGHT, IT SEEMS.
COFFEE POT
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.
YOU SURE? I KNOW CASES LIKE THIS, AND 'THE BOTTOM' MEANS ROCK BOTTOM. TEN BUCKS SAYS YOUR DOC DOESN'T WANT TO BE FOUND.
I DON'T CARE. TOMORROW A CARGO SHIP WILL CARRY A SHIPMENT OF ARTIFACTS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC. I PLAN TO BE ON IT.
DO YA NOW?
COFFEE POT
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MR. PARKER? YOU'RE THE DETECTIVE. YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, YOU KNOW CASES LIKE THIS... SO WILL YOU HELP ME FIND MY SISTER'S KILLER?
WISH I COULD, BUT I GOT MY HANDS FULL WITH THE FIVE BOROUGHS.
IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, BE AT THE WHITE PLAINS AIRFIELD AT SEVEN.
DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH, DOC.
THEN I SUPPOSE THIS IS GOODBYE.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, MR. PARKER? WITH GREAT POWER COMES...
A GREAT BIG POWER BILL. ASK MANHATTAN ELECTRIC.
SO LONG, DOC.

NONE OF THIS IS ADDING UP. "NOW HIRING." I SAW THE SIGN MYSELF, IN THE WINDOW OF THE CAT. BUT HOLLY TOLD MJ THERE WERE NO OPENINGS. WHY? HOW MUCH TROUBLE WAS SHE IN?
HOW DOES A DAME LIKE THAT END UP WITH A THIRTEEN-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD ROCK... AND WHAT DOES SHE HAVE TO DO WITH A MISSING GERMAN BYZANTINIST? THE ONE HER SISTER SAYS SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW?
MY HEAD IS SPINNING. WAS HELGA LYING? OR IS HUMA? WHO CAN I TRUST NOW?
IS THAT A RHETORICAL QUESTION?
MJ? BUT WHO'S THAT BEHIND--
DUCK!
HUNH?
I CAN'T SEE, MY EYES ARE SCREWY--THAT'S NO REGULAR FLASH...IT'S ALL A BLUR...
MJ! KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED!
WHAAA?
FLASH!
FEELS LIKE ACID... IN MY EYES...
KRAKK
BACK OFF!
OOOF!!!
PETER! HELP!

PETER, WHAT'S HAPPENING?! THESE MEN...!
IF YOU MOOKS TOUCH A HAIR ON THAT HEAD--
THOSE THUGS--GOTTA DO SOMETHING-- BUT WATCH OUT FOR AUNT MAY--
TWHIP!
TWHIP!
GET OFF ME, HOOLIGANS!
AUNT MAY!
TROC!
TONK!
FLASH!
MY EYES!
HOLY MOLY--I CAN'T SEE A THING!
MJ!!!
COME ON! BETTER SCRAM!
I'M SCRAMMIN', I'M SCRAMMIN'!

WHOEVER THAT WAS, THEY WEREN'T TAKING PICTURES FOR *THE BUGLE*.
FIRST SAW HIM AT THE BLACK CAT. THOUGHT HE WAS A CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHER, BUT HE MUST'VE BEEN ON MY TAIL FOR A WHILE NOW.
AT LEAST I CLOCKED HIM GOOD.
YOU SURE DID. WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT HIM. WHERE'D YOU LEARN A STUNT LIKE THAT?
REDHEAD RIDING THE SUBWAY EVERY DAY, REMEMBER? I COULD TAKE OUT A JERK LIKE THAT WITH MY EYES SHUT.

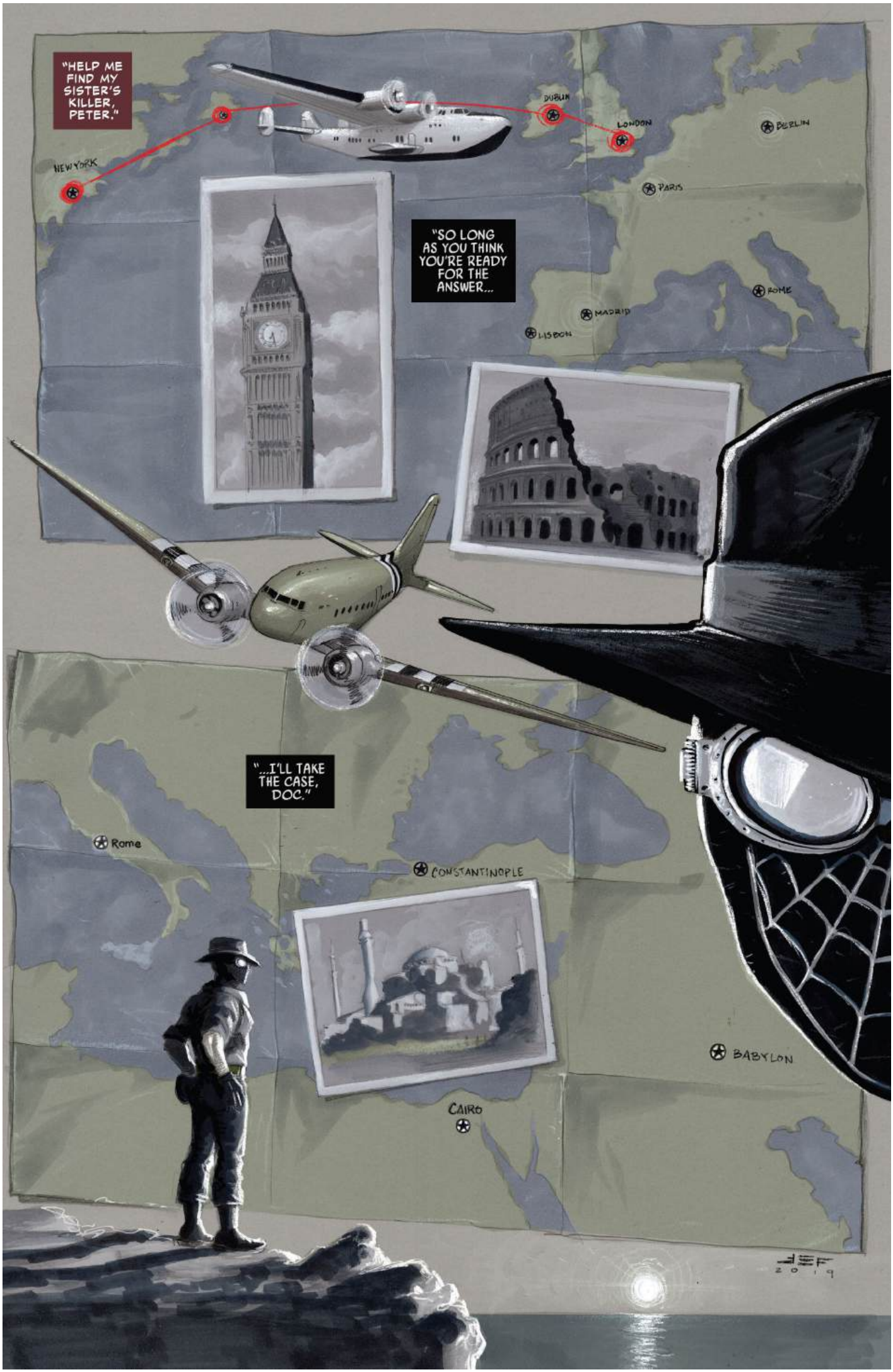
YOU THINK THAT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH HOLLY'S DEATH?
WE'LL NEVER KNOW. HER SISTER OFFERED ME THE CASE. I TURNED IT DOWN.
WHY?

WHY D'YOU THINK? THE CITY. MJ YOU. I HAVE... ***RESPONSIBILITIES,*** AUNT MAY. IT'S MY JOB TO KEEP YOU SAFE.
BUT WE'RE NOT SAFE, PETER. NO ONE IS. WAR IS COMING. IT'S IN THE NEWS...ON THE RADIO...IN THE AIR...
SHE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? I CAN'T STOP A WAR. I CAN BARELY KEEP A LOUSY CITY FROM GOING SIDEWAYS.
JUST BECAUSE WE CAN'T STOP IT DOESN'T MEAN WE SHOULDN'T TRY.
WE'RE ***LUCKY,*** PETER. BEING SPIDER-MAN BROUGHT TO YOU DEATH'S DOOR AND A ***MIRACLE*** BROUGHT YOU BACK TO US. THIS GIRL WON'T BE SO FORTUNATE. SHE DESERVES ***JUSTICE.***
AND WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT...

I GET IT, AUNT MAY.
I KNOW YOU DO, PETER. SO ACT LIKE IT.
THING IS? IT'S COMPLICATED.
I CAN ONLY REMIND YOU OF WHO YOU ARE. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT TO DO. NO ONE CAN.

The Next Morning. White Plains Military Base.
ANY MINUTE NOW.
SEVEN O'CLOCK. ON THE DOT.
YOU EXPECTIN' SOMEONE?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D MAKE IT, MR. PARKER.
CHANGED MY MIND, I GUESS.
SOMETIMES IT'S NOT YOUR MIND THAT CHANGES. SOMETIMES THE WORLD CHANGES AROUND YOU.
THIS WAY TO THE CARGO HOLD. WE'LL NEED TO STRAP IN, MR. PARKER. THIS MIGHT GET A LITTLE ROUGH.
"MIGHT, DOC"?
"CALL ME HUMA.
"I'VE BROUGHT YOU A DOSSIER. EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR WORK...OUR EXCAVATION... OUR FUNDING...YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE CATCHING UP TO DO, DETECTIVE.
Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung


"HELP ME FIND MY SISTER'S KILLER, PETER."
NEW YORK
DUBLIN
LONDON
BERLIN
PARIS
"SO LONG AS YOU THINK YOU'RE READY FOR THE ANSWER...
ROME
MADRID
LISBON
"...I'LL TAKE THE CASE, DOC."
Rome
CONSTANTINOPLE
BABYLON
CAIRO
2019

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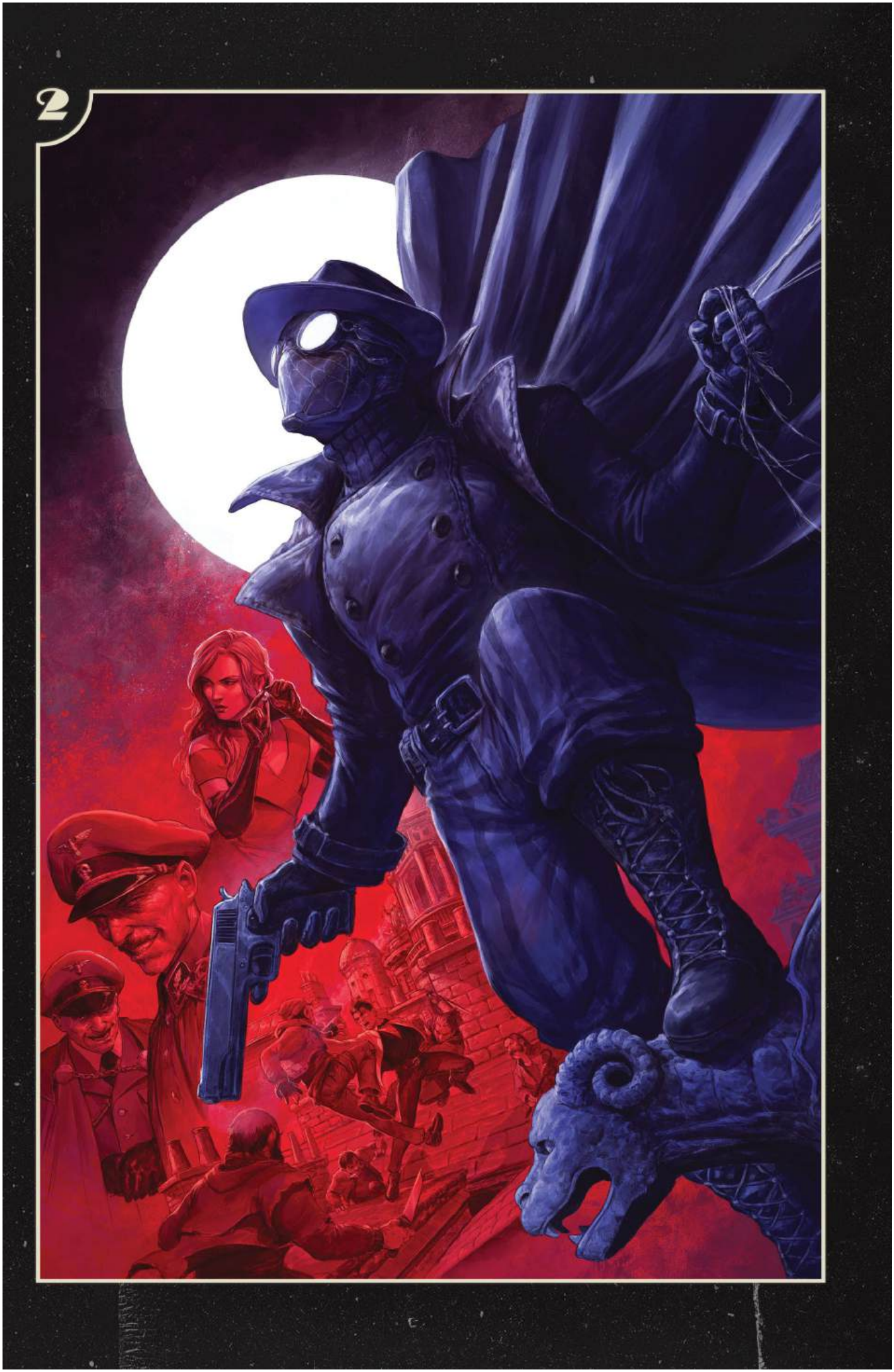
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BOTWOOD
DUBLIN
LONDON
NEW YORK
On approach to London, England.

ALL WOMEN ARE MYSTERIES. ALL MEN ARE DETECTIVES. UNCLE BEN ONCE TOLD ME THAT.
LONDON

THE MYSTERY IN THE SEAT NEXT TO ME SMELLS LIKE ONE OF THOSE LITTLE COOKIES THAT COMES WITH A CHOCOLATE EGG CREAM AT THE SODA FOUNTAIN.

WHO KNEW TROUBLE COULD SMELL LIKE SUGAR?

I LIKE AN EGG CREAM AS MUCH AS THE NEXT GUY, BUT THE SOFT HUM FROM MY SPIDER-SENSES TELL ME THIS ONE IS MORE MIXED UP IN EVERYTHING THAN SHE'S LETTING ON.

THOUGHT WE LOST YOU BACK THERE, MR. PARKER. WHEN YOU LOST YOUR LUNCH...
THAT'S NOT FLYING, DOCTOR BERGMANN. THAT'S A ROLLER COASTER. THAT'S THE CONEY ISLAND CYCLONE.
HENCE THE BOWLS UNDER THE SEATS, DETECTIVE.
I'LL SWIM FROM HERE TO BERLIN.
YOU MAY HAVE TO IF WE CAN'T FIND A PILOT TO SMUGGLE US IN.
SO NOW WE KNOW. THE GOOD DETECTIVE IS AFRAID OF HEIGHTS.
DEPTHS.
PLUMMETING TOWARD THEM?
LIKE A DEAD PIGEON. IN A TIN CAGE. RIPE FOR NAZI TARGET PRACTICE.
DON'T FORGET THE BOWLS.
COULDN'T IF I TRIED.
WELCOME TO THE BIG BAD WORLD, PIDGEY. NO SHORTAGE OF THINGS TO FORGET OUT HERE.
SAVOY

THE SAVOY. LONDON'S FINEST.
WHO LETS A BUM FROM QUEENS INTO A JOINT LIKE THIS?
DON'T GET ANY IDEAS, PIDGE. I GET THE BED. YOU GET...TO WISH YOU HAD THE BED.
I'LL TAKE THE FLOOR. SAVOY'S TOO RICH FOR MY BLOOD ANYHOW.

THE MET* PICKED UP THE BILL. THEY'RE GRATEFUL YOU'RE ON THE CASE OF THE MISSING CURATOR, PETER...
SO AM I.
UH... I... THANKS.
DON'T SWEAT, PIDGE. I'M A BIG GIRL. I CAN CARRY MY OWN BAG.
*THAT'S THE NEW YORK'S MET ROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, SPIDER-PHILES! - DEVIN

LOOK AT THAT. I PULLED EVERY STRING I HAD TO GET US IN FRONT OF THE AMBASSADOR, AND IT WORKED. HE'S INVITED US TO A SHINDIG AT THE EMBASSY TONIGHT.
YOU THINK HE CAN GET US TO BERLIN?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...

WE BETTER GET CLEANED UP.
THAT'S NOT MY SIZE.
VERY FUNNY. NOW TURN AROUND.
THE AMBASSADOR HAS A REAL EYE FOR ANTIQUITIES.
DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT. YOU'RE PLENTY YOUNG.
LISTEN, WISEACRE. HE'S NOT A CREEP. WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER BEFORE. IF HE CAN HELP US, HE WILL.
JUST STICK WITH ME AND TRY TO LOOK PRETTY.
ROGER WILCO. I SHOULD WARN YOU. I'M NOT MUCH OF A... PARTY PERSON.
I'D SAY EVERY MINUTE WITH YOU'S A PARTY, MR. PARKER.

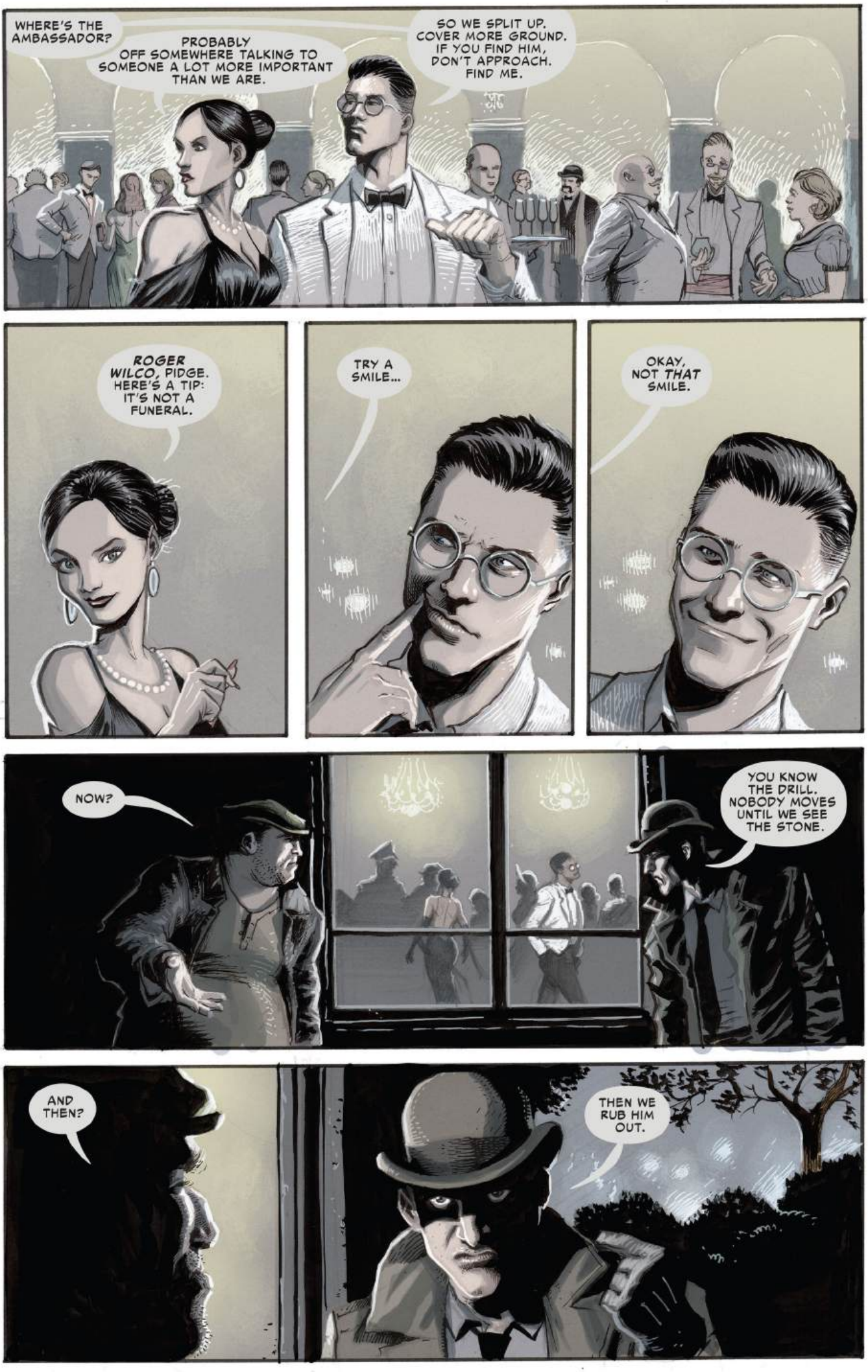
MARBLE NUMBER MUST BE THE EMBASSY.
IT AIN'T THE YMCA.
TARGET ACQUIRED.
TRUE TENSION IN EUROPE
HITLER STRONGER

UH-OH. FORGOT TO PACK A JACKET. EVEN THE DOORMAN'S BETTER DRESSED THAN I AM.
BIG SMILES, PIDGE. WE'RE BLENDING IN, REMEMBER?
THIS WAY TO THE RECEPTION.

BLEND? IN THIS SWANKY CROWD? I DON'T THINK SO. UNLESS...

KNOCKING BACK THE GIGGLE JUICE LIKE THAT? POOR SAP WON'T MIND IF I BORROW HIS MONKEY SUIT.

WHERE'D YOU GO?
NOWHERE.


WHERE'S THE AMBASSADOR?
PROBABLY OFF SOMEWHERE TALKING TO SOMEONE A LOT MORE IMPORTANT THAN WE ARE.
SO WE SPLIT UP. COVER MORE GROUND. IF YOU FIND HIM, DON'T APPROACH. FIND ME.
ROGER WILCO, PIDGE. HERE'S A TIP: IT'S NOT A FUNERAL.
TRY A SMILE...
OKAY, NOT THAT SMILE.
NOW?
YOU KNOW THE DRILL. NOBODY MOVES UNTIL WE SEE THE STONE.
AND THEN?
THEN WE RUB HIM OUT.

I CASED THE JOINT... TO GET THE SLANT... BUT IT WAS NO USE.
ALL I COULD FIND WAS AN AMERICAN GENERAL PEDDLING BLACK MARKET SILK STOCKINGS...
...A RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT PEDDLING BLACK MARKET CAVIAR...
...A SWISS PHYSICIST PEDDLING BLACK MARKET CHOCOLATE...
...AND A BRITISH POLITICIAN PEDDLING... WELL, THE BATTLE AHEAD.
I FIGURED THE WHOLE NIGHT WAS A BUST, UNTIL I SAW HUMA TAKE OFF UP THE STAIRS.
HUH?
SOMETHING WAS TRIGGERING MY SPIDER-SENSE, BUT I COULDN'T SAY WHAT.
SO I DID WHAT ANY FELLA WOULD DO IN THAT SITUATION, I FOLLOWED HER.
IT WASN'T UNTIL I REACHED THE LANDING THAT I HEARD THE VOICES. TWO I DIDN'T KNOW. ONE I DID.
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING, HUMA.
WE JUST GOT HERE TODAY. MYSELF AND MR. PARKER...
THINGS ARE WORSE THAN WE KNEW. THE GERMANS WILL NEVER RELINQUISH CONTROL OF THE SOURCE...
I'M NOT EVEN SURE SURE MY GUARD CAN HELP US NOW...

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THERE YOU ARE, DARLING. WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO?
JUST TOOK THE SCENIC ROUTE.
DARLING.
ARE YOU A COLLECTOR, MR. PARKER?
WE DABBLE IN ANTIQUITIES OURSELVES.
PETER COLLECTS MYSTERIES. HE'S A DETECTIVE. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.
AND WHAT DO YOU COLLECT, DR. BERGMANN?
DETECTIVES LATELY.
+SNORT+
YOU'RE BOTH A LONG WAY FROM...BRAZIL, WAS IT?
HOW VERY OBSERVANT YOU ARE, MR. PARKER.
FUNNY HOW YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE AN ACCENT.
AND WE'RE A LONG WAY FROM BERLIN, WHICH IS WHERE WE NEED TO GO. IF THE EMBASSY COULD HELP US...?
I'M AFRAID THE THIRD REICH HAS MADE BORDER CROSSINGS... DIFFICULT.
IS IT VERY IMPORTANT, DR. BERGMANN?
YOU TELL US...

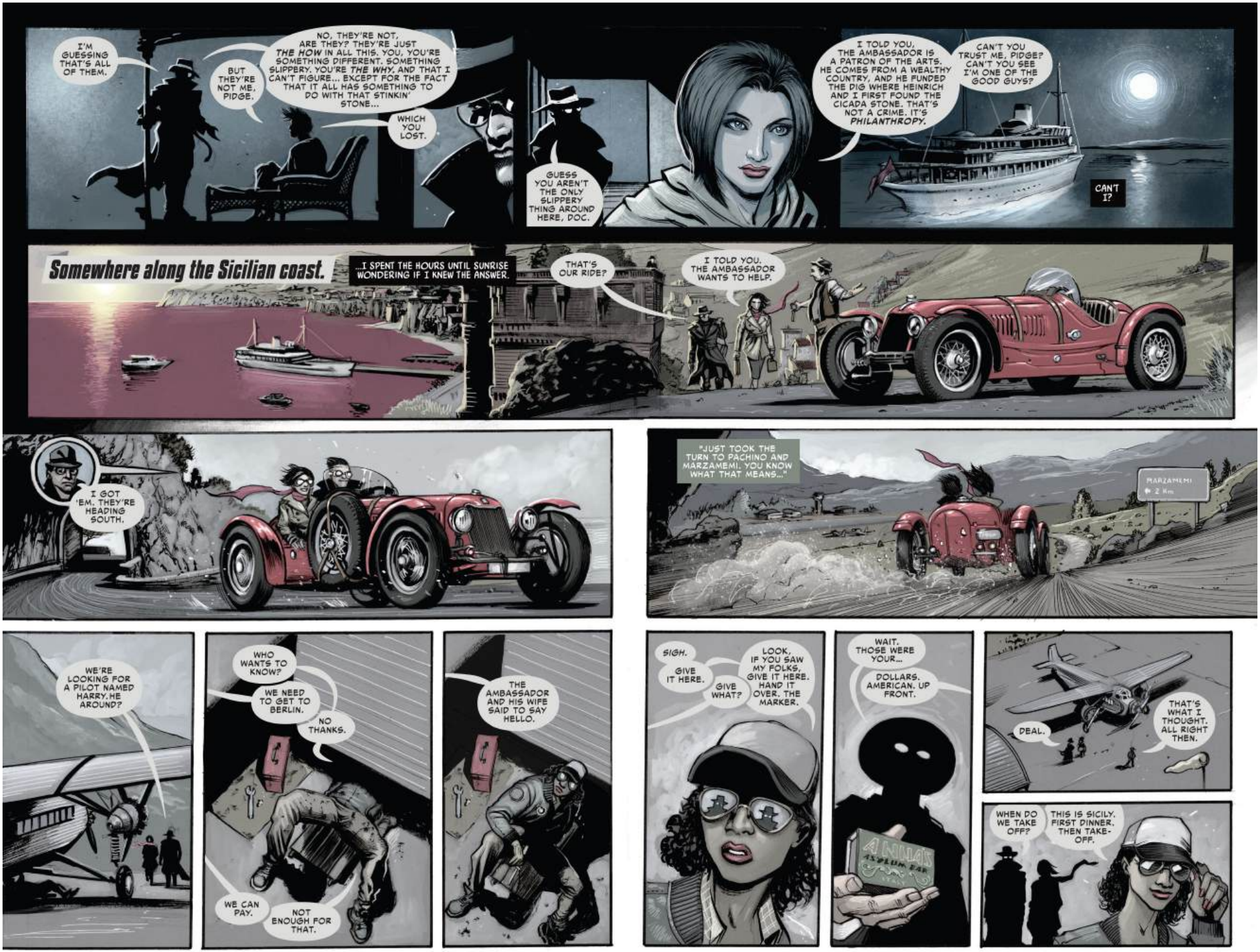
THE CICADA STONE! YOU HAVE IT?
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
BINGO. THERE IT IS. RIGHT ON THE MONEY.
GOT A FEW QUESTIONS FOR A CURATOR AT THE NEUES MUSEUM. HE'S A LITTLE LATE FOR A MEETING...IN NEW YORK.
DO YOU MEAN...
SOMEONE PUT THE SCREWS ON HIM.
LET'S MOVE. SECOND FLOOR.
WE CAN ONLY GET YOU AS FAR AS SIRACUSA.
SICILY?
YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
YOU. START CLIMBING.
ANNA'S ASYLUM. THAT'S THE PLACE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR. TELL HARRY HELLO FOR ME.
HARRY?
HURRY IT UP ALREADY.
OOF. HIGHER THAN IT LOOKS, BOSS.
THE BARK IS MUCH WORSE THAN THE BITE. YOU'LL SEE...
I WILL?
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
ANNA'S
ASYLUM BAR
ITALY

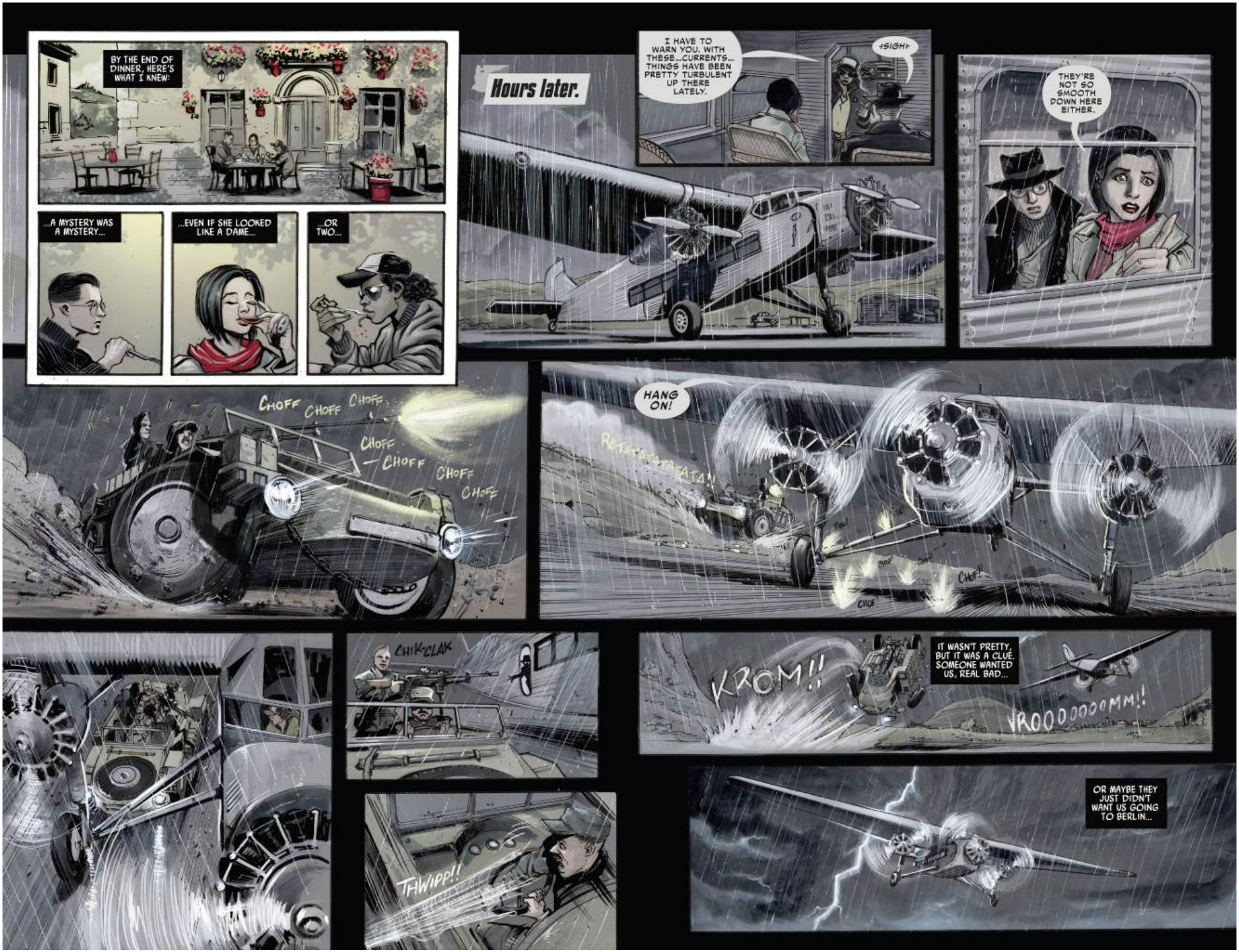
KRSHHH
WHA--
WATCH OUT!
GIMME THAT!
NOT... LIKELY...
GET OFF ME!
OOF!
NOT THE MING!
HUH?
YOU LOUSY... WHY I OUGHTA...
SOK!
PETER!
HEH. GOT IT.
SO LONG, SWANKS.
MY HEAD.
GOTTA GET THAT STONE.

AND HERE I THOUGHT I WASN'T GOING TO GET TO SEE THE SIGHTS...
BUCKINGHAM PALACE? CHECK.
THHHUURK
THWIP
WHOOSH
LONDON CAB. CHECK.
HONKKKKKK HONKK
GET OFF YA BILKER!
STEP ON IT!
LONDON DOUBLE-DECKER BUS. CHECK...
AIR FRANCE
AIR FRANCE
WHOOSH
GRUNTTT
SLOW DOWN, CHIEF!
HONKK

...LONDON DOUBLE-DECKER BUS BACK DOOR. CHECK.
BLIMEY.
THUD
GO ON.
HE'S QUITE FIT.
I SAY.
TIP YOUR MITT, YA GOON!
NO THANKS.
SMASHH
AAAAAH!
NOT SO--
--FAST!
...AAAAAAND LONDON PHONE BOOTH. CHECK!
KRASH!!
HUH? GONE? BUT HE WAS JUST THERE A SECOND AGO!
DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. DOC.
I DO. YOU GOT THE DOUBLE CROSS.
AND HE'S GOT THE STONE. GUESS I'M THE PATSY NOW. EASY MARK, CHUMP AND A HALF...
STOP MOANING AND PUT A MOVE ON IT, PIDGE. WE'VE GOT A BOAT TO CATCH.

BY THE TIME WE RAISED ANCHORS FOR SICILY, I KNEW ONE THING...FOLKS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE POND WERE WAY TOO INTERESTED IN SOME OLD STONE FOR IT TO BE JUST SOME OLD STONE...
I JUST WISHED I KNEW HOW TO GET MY HANDS ON IT AGAIN.
ONE MINUTE, THAT PALOOKA WAS THERE IN THE BOOTH. THE NEXT? GONE. LAMMED OFF. VAMOOSED.
WITH THE CICADA STONE.
OUR ONLY CLUE. PINCHED.
SOMETHING'S HINKY. YOU FEEL HOW FAST THIS THING CAN *MOVE?*
NOW YOU'RE JUST CHASING YOUR OWN TAIL. A SHIP'S A SHIP.
WE'LL GET THE STONE BACK, PARKER. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. YOU SHOULD GET SOME SHUT-EYE WHILE YOU CAN.
HOW IS IT THAT AN AMBASSADOR HAS A PERSONAL SHIP WITH MILITARY DEFENSE SYSTEMS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN?
YOU KNOW *BRASS.*
I KNOW *YOU* SEEM TO, DOC. PRETTY TIGHT LITTLE TALK YOU THREE WERE HAVING BACK THERE BEFORE I FOUND YOU IN THE LIBRARY.
DON'T BE AN IDIOT, PIDGE.
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE ONE, DOC.
OKAY, I'LL MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU. YOU'RE WORKING WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE, IF THAT'S EVEN WHO THEY ARE.
THAT PLANE TO LONDON...THIS SHIP TO SICILY...
...EVEN THE PILOT WAITING TO TAKE US TO BERLIN...


I'M GUESSING THAT'S ALL OF THEM.
BUT THEY'RE NOT ME, PIDGE.
NO, THEY'RE NOT, ARE THEY? THEY'RE JUST THE HOW IN ALL THIS. YOU, YOU'RE SOMETHING DIFFERENT. SOMETHING SLIPPERY. YOU'RE THE WHY, AND THAT I CAN'T FIGURE... EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT IT ALL HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT STINKIN' STONE...
WHICH YOU LOST.
GUESS YOU AREN'T THE ONLY SLIPPERY THING AROUND HERE, DOC.
I TOLD YOU, THE AMBASSADOR IS A PATRON OF THE ARTS. HE COMES FROM A WEALTHY COUNTRY, AND HE FUNDED THE DIG WHERE HEINRICH AND I FIRST FOUND THE CICADA STONE. THAT'S NOT A CRIME. IT'S PHILANTHROPY.
CAN'T YOU TRUST ME, PIDGE? CAN'T YOU SEE I'M ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS?
CAN'T I?
Somewhere along the Sicilian coast.
...I SPENT THE HOURS UNTIL SUNRISE WONDERING IF I KNEW THE ANSWER.
THAT'S OUR RIDE?
I TOLD YOU. THE AMBASSADOR WANTS TO HELP.
I GOT 'EM. THEY'RE HEADING SOUTH.
"JUST TOOK THE TURN TO PACHINO AND MARZAMEMI. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS..."
MARZAMEMI
2 Km
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A PILOT NAMED HARRY. HE AROUND?
WHO WANTS TO KNOW?
WE NEED TO GET TO BERLIN.
NO THANKS.
WE CAN PAY.
NOT ENOUGH FOR THAT.
THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE SAID TO SAY HELLO.
SIGH.
GIVE IT HERE.
GIVE WHAT?
LOOK, IF YOU SAW MY FOLKS, GIVE IT HERE. HAND IT OVER. THE MARKER.
WAIT. THOSE WERE YOUR...
DOLLARS. AMERICAN. UP FRONT.
4 NINA'S
ASYLUM BAR
DEAL.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. ALL RIGHT THEN.
WHEN DO WE TAKE OFF?
THIS IS SICILY. FIRST DINNER, THEN TAKE-OFF.


BY THE END OF DINNER, HERE'S WHAT I KNEW:
...A MYSTERY WAS A MYSTERY...
...EVEN IF SHE LOOKED LIKE A DAME...
...OR TWO...
Hours later.
I HAVE TO WARN YOU. WITH THESE...CURRENTS... THINGS HAVE BEEN PRETTY TURBULENT UP THERE LATELY.
SIGH
THEY'RE NOT SO SMOOTH DOWN HERE EITHER.
CHOFF CHOFF CHOFF CHOFF CHOFF CHOFF CHOFF CHOFF
HANG ON!
RATATATATATATA!!
CHOF!
CHOF
CHIK-CLAK
THWIPP!!
KROM!!
IT WASN'T PRETTY, BUT IT WAS A CLUE. SOMEONE WANTED US, REAL BAD...
VROOOOOOMM!!
OR MAYBE THEY JUST DIDN'T WANT US GOING TO BERLIN...

...AND FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, BERLIN HAD SEEN BETTER DAYS. A LOT BETTER.
SO WHERE IN THIS CRUMMY TOWN CAN A GUY FIND A BYZANTINIST?
YOUR MISSING MUSEUM PAL? YOUR BOSS?
DOCTOR HEINRICH HELLSTROM. THE MUSEUM'S NOT FAR...
I SHOULD WARN YOU. I'M NOT MUCH OF A MUSEUM PERSON...
YEAH? I'M NOT MUCH OF A PERSON PERSON.
Neues Museum, Museum Island, Berlin.
THERE IT IS. THE NEUES. HEINRICH'S MUSEUM. I STILL HAVE HIS AFTER-HOURS KEY.
NICE DIGS. THIRD REICH SURE HAS A THING FOR COLUMNS.
DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU SEE. I THINK THE WHOLE CITY'S GOING DOWNHILL...
ZZZTT!!
CRAKE!
...AND NOT JUST 'CAUSE ALL THE STREET LAMPS ARE BUSTED.
THE STAFF ENTRANCE IS THAT WAY...
BUMP!
THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF. I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THE FRONT DOOR.
WON'T BE LONG.

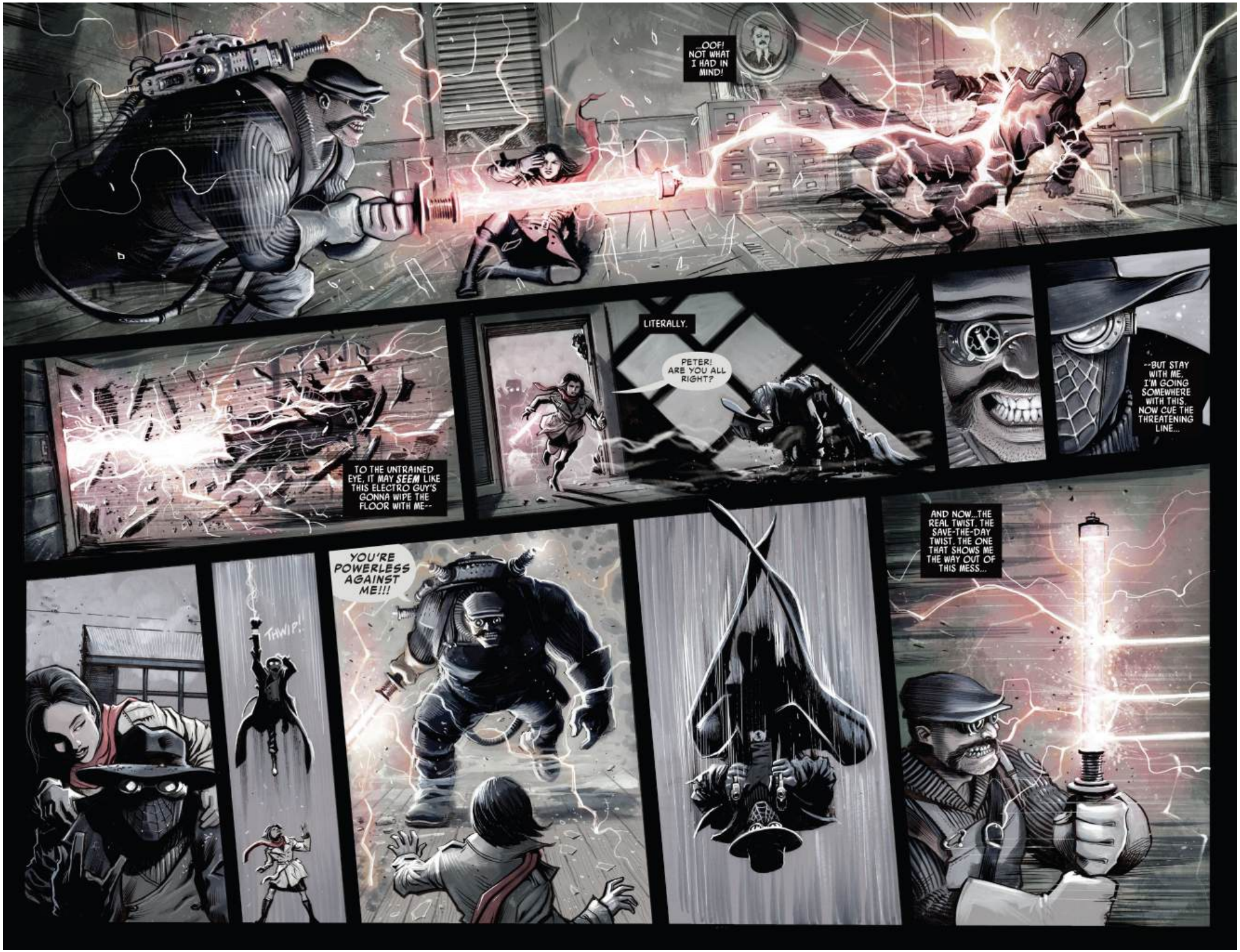
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE MADE IT ALL THE WAY HERE...IN ONE PIECE...
AND I DIDN'T MEAN TO LIE TO YOU, PETER. BACK AT THE EMBASSY. IT WAS JUST...I PROMISED... I SWORE I WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
PROMISED WHO? THE NAZIS? THE MET? YOUR SISTER?
HEINRICH. HE'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING...
DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH. I DON'T THINK HE'S GONNA FEEL LIKE TALKING...
NO!!! HEINRICH!!!
MY SPIDER-SENSES WERE FIRING LIKE HEAVY ARTILLERY. I KNEW WHAT WAS COMING...BEFORE I EVEN SAW HIM...
CLICKKKK
HOLY SMOKES! DON'T LOOK AT THE LIGHT, DOC!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THERE IT WAS. THE FAMILIAR CAMERA FLASH THAT WASN'T A CAMERA FLASH... ONLY ABOUT A THOUSAND TIMES STRONGER THAN IT HAD BEEN AT AUNT MAY'S PLACE IN QUEENS...
KRASH
WHAT THE...
NOT WHAT. WHO. AND YOU CAN CALL ME...
I KNEW IT WAS HIM. I KNEW IT HAD TO BE. ONLY THE FLASH WASN'T THE ONLY THING ABOUT A THOUSAND TIMES BIGGER...

...ELECTRO!

#2 variant cover by **DAN PANOSIAN**

3

Neues Museum, Berlin.
THIS ISN'T MY FIRST SUPER VILLAIN RODEO, SO LET'S GET DOWN TO IT.
WE ALL KNOW THE DRILL, HOW THIS PLAYS OUT. HE WANTS TO DESTROY ME...
I'LL DESTROY YOU.
AH, KEEP YOUR GOGGLES ON.
SURE, MAYBE HE'S GOT A BIG GLOW STICK... THROWS DOWN THUNDERBOLTS LIKE ZEUS HIMSELF...
PIDGEY! WATCH OUT!
BUT YOU JUST GOTTA WAIT FOR THE TWIST. THERE'S ALWAYS A TWIST...

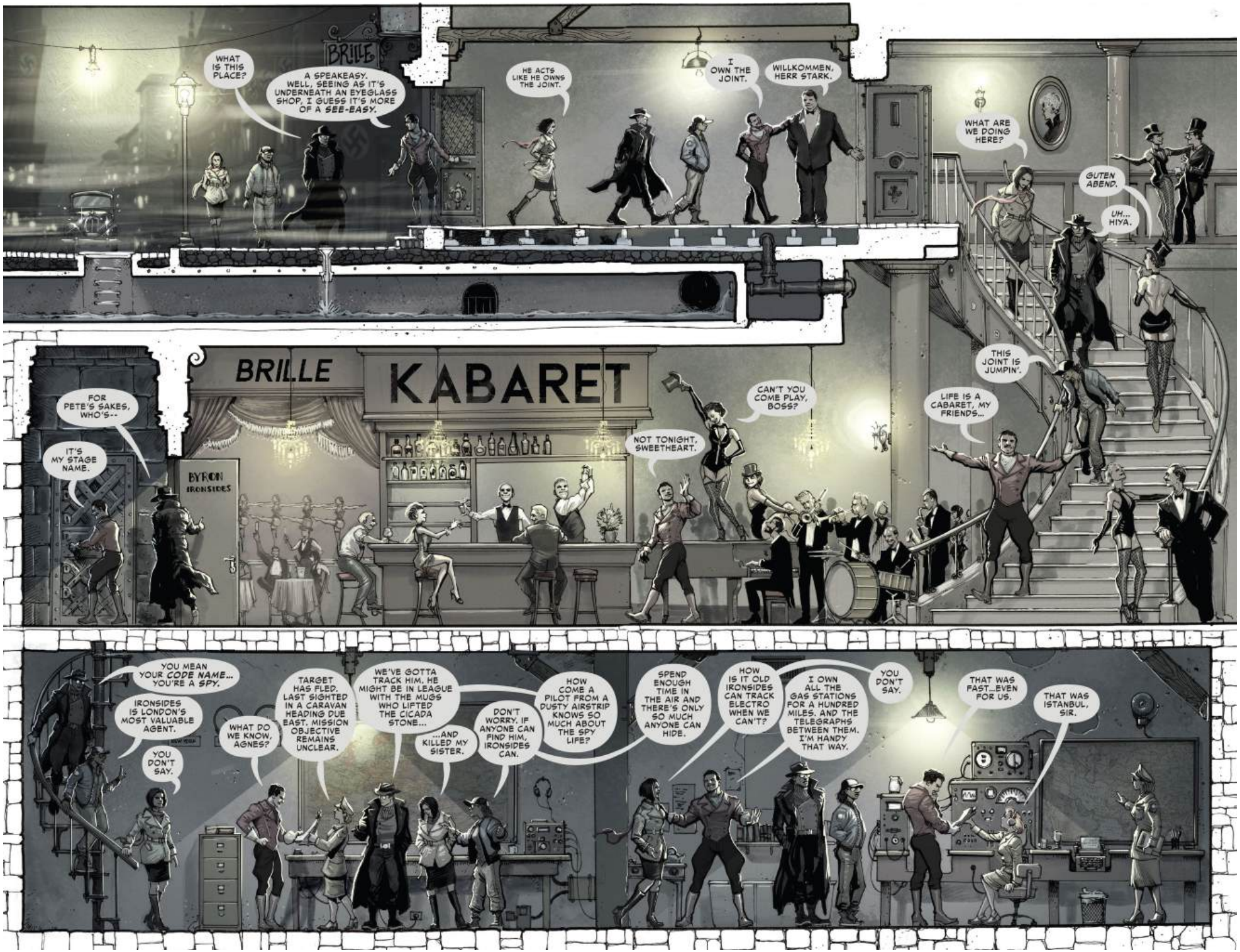

...OOF! NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND!
LITERALLY.
PETER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
--BUT STAY WITH ME. I'M GOING SOMEWHERE WITH THIS. NOW CUE THE THREATENING LINE...
TO THE UNTRAINED EYE, IT MAY SEEM LIKE THIS ELECTRO GUY'S GONNA WIPE THE FLOOR WITH ME--
THWIP!
YOU'RE POWERLESS AGAINST ME!!!
AND NOW...THE REAL TWIST. THE SAVE-THE-DAY TWIST. THE ONE THAT SHOWS ME THE WAY OUT OF THIS MESS...

NOW!
AAARRRRGHHHH!
AGAIN!
NOT AGAIN! NOT AGAIN!
YEAH, I'M READY FOR THAT TWIST.
YOU THINK YOU'RE THE SPIDER... BUT YOU'RE JUST THE LITTLE FLY CAUGHT IN A MUCH BIGGER WEB...!
...TWIST?
ANYONE?

HELP ME OUT HERE...
SPIDER! CATCH!
THERE IT IS!
GOT IT!
UH-OH.
TNT
TNT
TNT
NOW!
KABOOM!
OKAY, THAT WAS MORE OF A BANG THAN A TWIST...BUT I'LL TAKE IT.
...JUST LIKE THAT 'LECTRIC LUG TOOK OFF.
WHERE'S ELECTRO?!
VAMOOSED THROUGH THE ROOF, I THINK.
COME ON! BACK DOOR! FRONT'S SURROUNDED BY ELECTRO'S THUGS.
I CAN GET YOU IN THE CLEAR. I KNOW A PLACE...

"...FOR NOW."
WAIT! HOW DO WE KNOW WE CAN TRUST HIM?
WE CAN. I'LL VOUCH.
SAYS THE DAME I MET THREE DAYS AGO...? THAT'S RICH.
DON'T WORRY. I'VE KNOWN HARRY SINCE SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL. LET'S JUST SAY I'M A...BUSINESS ASSOCIATE...OF HER PARENTS'.
THE GUY JUST SAVED OUR SKINS. IF HE SAYS HE CAN CAN GET US OUT OF HERE, I'M LISTENING.
PETER, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MARBLES? THIS IS SERIOUS. MY SISTER WAS MURDERED. HEINRICH IS DEAD. AND NOW, WITH THIS ELECTRO...
IT'S CALLED A MYSTERY FOR A REASON, HUMA. I'M A DETECTIVE. I GOTTA FOLLOW THE CLUES TO SEE WHERE THEY TAKE ME, EVEN WHEN I DON'T LIKE WHERE THEY'RE GOING.
I DON'T CALL THE SHOTS. I JUST LOOK FOR THE TRUTH...AND THE TRUTH IS, NOBODY'S ON THE SQUARE. YOU CAN'T TRUST ANYONE. SOMETIMES NOT EVEN YOURSELF.

Meanwhile...
THAT DID NOT GO QUITE SO WELL AS PLANNED.
SPIES. I HATE SPIES.
IT APPEARS THE PROBLEM ISN'T SPIES, HERR DILLON. IT'S SPIDERS.
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM.
CRAKLE!!
OF COURSE. YOU'LL HANDLE IT. THAT'S OUR DEAL. FIFTY-FIFTY ON THE DANGER. FIFTY-FIFTY ON THE PAYOUT.
SIXTY-FORTY. PRICE JUST WENT UP.
...LIKE THE DANGER.

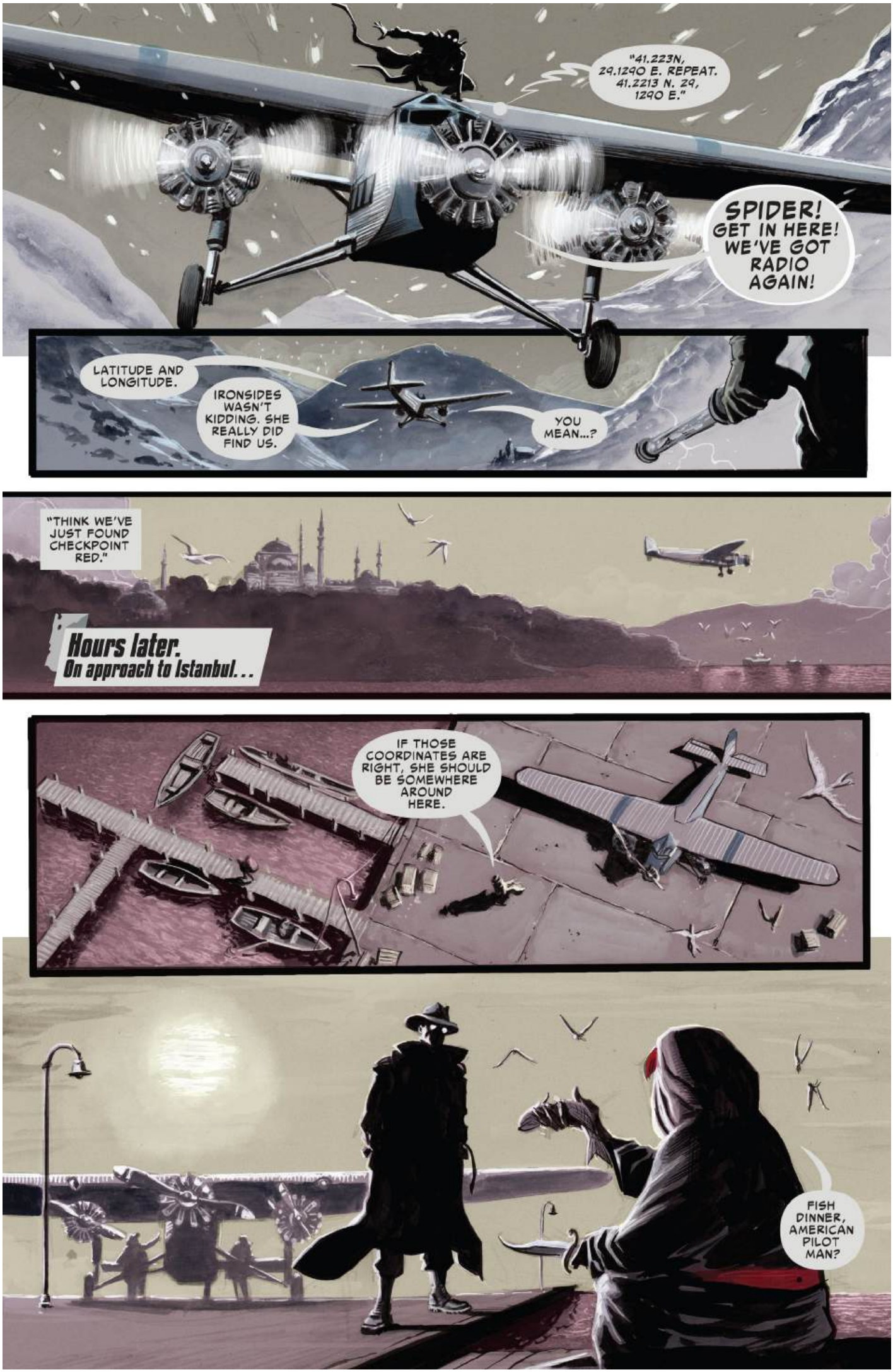

BRILLE
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
A SPEAKEASY. WELL, SEEING AS IT'S UNDERNEATH AN EYEGLASS SHOP, I GUESS IT'S MORE OF A SEE-EASY.
HE ACTS LIKE HE OWNS THE JOINT.
I OWN THE JOINT.
WILLKOMMEN, HERR STARK.
WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
GUTEN ABEND.
UH... HIYA.
BRILLE KABARET
FOR PETE'S SAKES, WHO'S--
IT'S MY STAGE NAME.
BYRON IRONSIDES
NOT TONIGHT, SWEETHEART.
CAN'T YOU COME PLAY, BOSS?
LIFE IS A CABARET, MY FRIENDS...
THIS JOINT IS JUMPIN'.
YOU MEAN YOUR CODE NAME... YOU'RE A SPY.
IRONSIDES IS LONDON'S MOST VALUABLE AGENT.
YOU DON'T SAY.
WHAT DO WE KNOW, AGNES?
TARGET HAS FLED. LAST SIGHTED IN A CARAVAN HEADING DUE EAST. MISSION OBJECTIVE REMAINS UNCLEAR.
WE'VE GOTTA TRACK HIM. HE MIGHT BE IN LEAGUE WITH THE MUGS WHO LIFTED THE CICADA STONE...
...AND KILLED MY SISTER.
DON'T WORRY. IF ANYONE CAN FIND HIM, IRONSIDES CAN.
HOW COME A PILOT FROM A DUSTY AIRSTRIP KNOWS SO MUCH ABOUT THE SPY LIFE?
SPEND ENOUGH TIME IN THE AIR AND THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH ANYONE CAN HIDE.
HOW IS IT OLD IRONSIDES CAN TRACK ELECTRO WHEN WE CAN'T?
I OWN ALL THE GAS STATIONS FOR A HUNDRED MILES. AND THE TELEGRAPHS BETWEEN THEM. I'M HANDY THAT WAY.
YOU DON'T SAY.
THAT WAS FAST...EVEN FOR US.
THAT WAS ISTANBUL, SIR.

SO. YOU'RE THAT SPIDER...
I'M A *DETECTIVE.*
BETTER WATCH YOURSELF, SPIDER-SLEUTH. HITLER'S GOT A THING FOR PEOPLE WITH MYSTIC POWERS AND SPECIAL TALENTS...
YOU MEAN LIKE ELECTRO?
I MEAN *EXACTLY* LIKE HIM. AND OTHERS.
YEAH, WELL, WHEN IT COMES TO SPECIAL TALENTS, THERE'S A FEW OF US. THEY COME AND GO...AND I'VE SHOWN A FEW THE DOOR, MYSELF.
THE *FÜHRER'S* ISN'T A LIST YOU WANT TO END UP ON. WHY DO YOU THINK THEY'RE ALL SO INTERESTED IN THE *CICADA STONE?*
I DON'T KNOW. BECAUSE THEY'RE BYZANTINISTS?
BECAUSE THE LEGENDS SAY IT CAN CHANNEL THE POWER OF THE NILE. *THE POWER TO RAISE THE DEAD.*
JUST SUPERSTITIONS, OF COURSE.
OF COURSE...
...AND I'M SURE THE SIXTH EXCAVATION OF URUK IS UNDERWAY JUST BECAUSE HITLER NEEDED SAND FOR HIS SANDBOX.
CHECKPOINT RED. WHEN YOU GET TO ISTANBUL. THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT. THE RUSSIANS WILL TAKE IT FROM THERE...
CHECKPOINT RED. GOT IT.
CAN WE GET THE COORDINATES FOR THAT?
OH, DON'T WORRY. *SHE'LL* FIND *YOU.*

ISTANBUL. THAT MEANS WE STOP AT SPLIT. THEN ATHENS... RIGHT? JUST OVER THE MOUNTAINS.
CAN YOU FLY IN ALL THIS FOG?
THAT'S NOT FOG, PAL. THAT'S SLEET. MUCH WORSE.
SUPER.
LIGHTNING DOESN'T HELP.
DON'T MEAN TO BACK SEAT DRIVE, BUT...ISN'T THAT DIAL SPINNING A LITTLE FAST?
NO, AND LIGHTNING DOESN'T USUALLY ACCOMPANY SLEET, EITHER.
THE ALTIMETER-- IT'S BROKEN!
CAN'T YOU RADIO FOR HELP OR SOMETHING?
ALT
NO DICE.
RADIO'S ON THE FRITZ TOO. PETE, YOU'RE ON THE MAP NOW.
KEEP IT DOWN! I CAN'T SEE, AND THIS WINDOW'S ALL I GOT TO NAVIGATE THESE HILLS SINCE SOMETHING'S MAKING MY INSTRUMENTS GO HAYWIRE!
Savoy
EITHER WAY... THIRTEEN THOUSAND FEET? I THINK WE'RE FLYING MUCH LOWER THAN THAT...
HOW DO YOU KNOW?

THAT.
AH!
LOOK OUT!
HARRY!!!
VROOOM!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT MOUNTAIN DOING OFF MY STARBOARD WING?! WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
OOF.
HARRY!!!
I'M TRYING TO GET CONTROL... STAY ON THOSE WORLD AERONAUTICAL CHARTS, PARKER. THEY'RE ALL WE HAVE.
BUT WHERE ARE WE?
LOOK OUT THE WINDOW. YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE.
ALL I SEE ARE MOUNTAINS AND SLEET.
SO MAYBE A GOOD TIME TO QUIT YAPPING.
WHAT'S THAT BIG CRAGGY ONE IN THE MIDDLE?
I THINK... THAT'S THE MATTERHORN.
WHATEVER IT IS, WE'RE ABOUT TO HIT IT! GET HIGHER! GO...UP!
I CAN'T. CLIMB TOO HIGH, WE'LL GET ICING IN THE CARBURETOR.
TOO LOW AND YOU'LL GET ICE ON OUR GRAVES!!!

THE WING! IT'S TOO FROZEN TO MOVE!
HOLD YOUR HORSES. I'LL GO MOVE IT MYSELF.
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY FROM THE BARF BOWL, PIDGE.
DON'T MAKE A FEDERAL CASE OUT OF IT.
GOTTA...
THWIIIP!!
THWIP!!
...GET...
...IT OFF.
KRAK!
KRA-KRAK!
KRA-KK!
KRAK!
NN-AAARGH!!
CRACK!
YES!
WATCH IT!
KRAK!
KRAOK
KRAK!
KRACK!


"41.223N, 29.1290 E. REPEAT. 41.2213 N. 29, 1290 E."
SPIDER! GET IN HERE! WE'VE GOT RADIO AGAIN!
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE.
IRONSIDES WASN'T KIDDING. SHE REALLY DID FIND US.
YOU MEAN...?
"THINK WE'VE JUST FOUND CHECKPOINT RED."
Hours later.
On approach to Istanbul...
IF THOSE COORDINATES ARE RIGHT, SHE SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.
FISH DINNER, AMERICAN PILOT MAN?

NO THANKS. KIND OF A...
...BUMPY RIDE...
MY POOR PIDGE.
MY POOR PLANE.
RETCHHH
PETER PARKER?
CHECKPOINT RED?
IRONSIDES SAID YOU'D BE HEADED MY WAY. IF YOU'VE...GOTTEN EVERYTHING *OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM*... WE CAN GO.
...

ELECTRO, *HUH?* THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO MY BOAT?
WE'VE BEEN TRACKING HIM SINCE BERLIN.
YOU'RE TOO LATE. HE'S GONE. SHORTED OUT HALF THE CITY AND THEN BEAT IT. WHY DO YOU THINK SAKIR HERE IS FEEDING OUR CREW FISH COOKED OVER A FIRE? WHOLE CITY'S IN A BLACKOUT.
ELECTRO PACKS AN EVEN BIGGER PUNCH THAN HALF A CITY. OUR PLANE ALMOST WENT DOWN AND HE WASN'T EVEN ON BOARD.
COULD SOMEONE DO THAT FROM THE GROUND? HOW?
NOT HERE. LET'S GO.

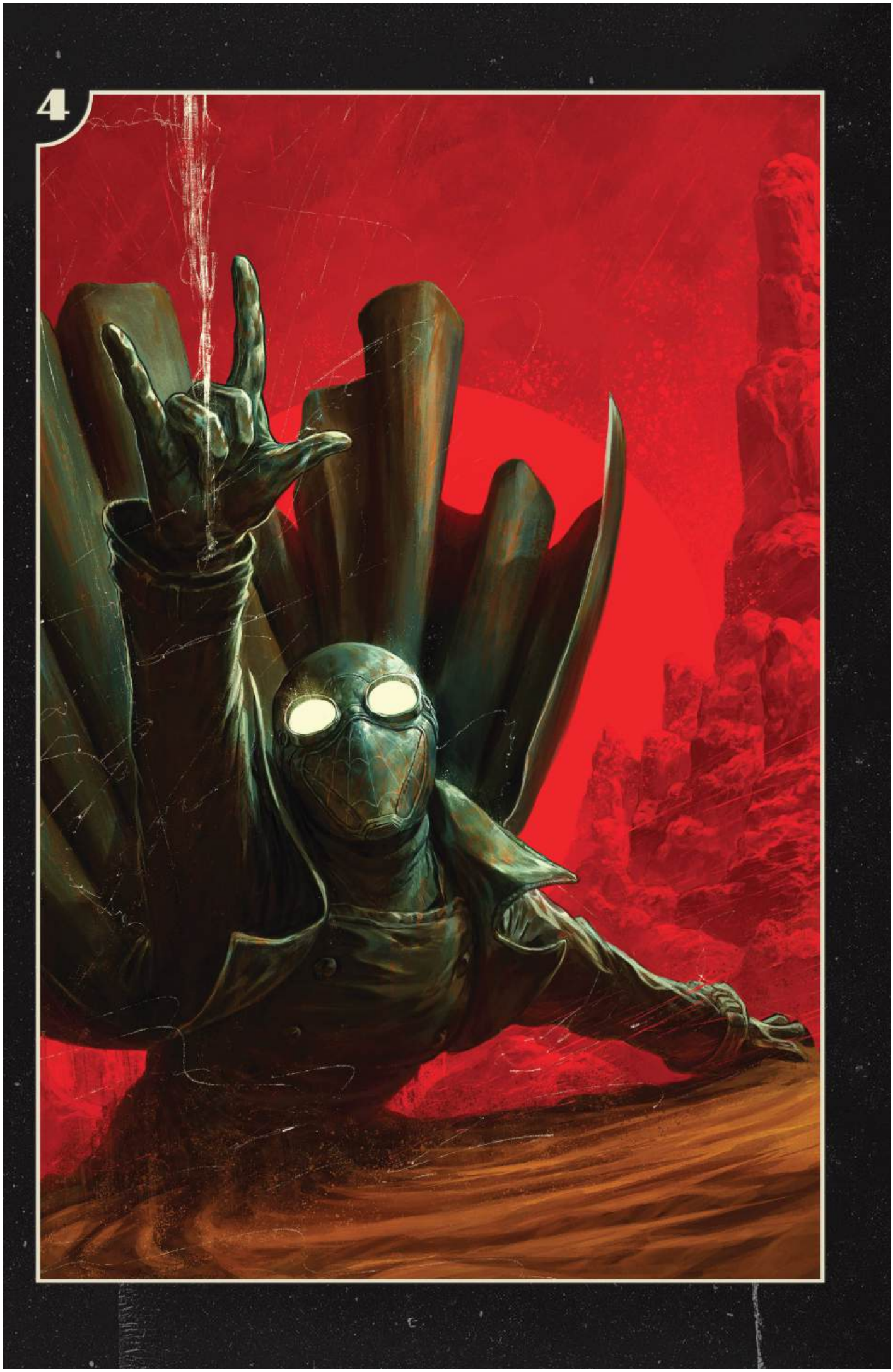
THIS WHOLE CASE IS TAKING A TURN FOR THE WEIRD.
IT'S TRUE. I'VE SEEN STRANGE THINGS IN THE DESERT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE GERMANS TOOK AN INTEREST IN THE REGION. UNCONVENTIONAL ALLIES.
NO THANKS.
THAT'S THE THIRD REICH FOR YOU.
ZEUS COULD HURL A THUNDERBOLT FROM THE TOP OF MOUNT OLYMPUS AND HIT A SWAN. IS LIGHTNING FROM THE SKY SO DIFFERENT? YOU'VE GOT TO OPEN YOUR MINDS. PEOPLE CHANGE. WAR CHANGES... EVERYTHING.
ANY IDEAS WHERE ELECTRO MIGHT HAVE GONE?
SAME PLACE HALF THE REICH HAS BEEN HEADING TO THESE PAST FEW MONTHS...
...THE SIXTH EXCAVATION OF URUK.
YES!
WHERE THE CICADA STONE CAME FROM?
BABYLON.
I CAN MAKE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS WHILE YOU REST. YOU'LL BE WITH A CARAVAN BY SUNRISE.
AS IN CAMELS?
PERFECT!
NOT PERFECT. THE DESERT IS FULL OF SURPRISES...AND NAZIS. EVEN WITH MY PATROLS, I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOU SAFE PASSAGE. I WISH I COULD DO MORE.
I KNOW THE FEELING.

SPEND THIRTY HOURS ON A CAMEL AND YOU'LL WANT TO DIE...
...BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET THE LAST EIGHT...
...NIGHT ON THE LEVANT...THAT'S THE KIND OF QUIET THAT MAKES EVERYTHING ELSE SEEM LIKE TIMES SQUARE ON NEW YEARS EVE...
BABYLON.
WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.
BY THE TIME THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY CAME INTO VIEW, I ALMOST DIDN'T WANT IT TO END...
...OR MAYBE THAT WAS JUST MY SPIDER-SENSES TELLING ME WHAT I ALREADY KNEW WAS COMING.

HALT!
HAENDE HOCH! ZEIG MIR DEINE PAPIERE!
JUST A GROUP OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS FROM THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF NEW YORK. I HAVE ALL THE NECESSARY PAPERS.
HMMM.
HMM?
HMM...
I'M SURE EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER...
WHSSSSSH
SLEEERSH!!
...OFFICER!
WHOOSHHHHH
BAM! BAM!
BAM! BAM!
KUNF!
SWIIIISH!!
TROCK!
BAM!
PIDGE! WATCH OUT!
SOK!
TUK!
WATCH OUT...

...OR YOU JUST MIGHT GET WHAT'S COMING TO YOU.
NOBODY MOVES.
HUMA? YOU'RE...
...A NAZI.
A NAZI?

#3 variant cover by **PATRICK O'KEEFE**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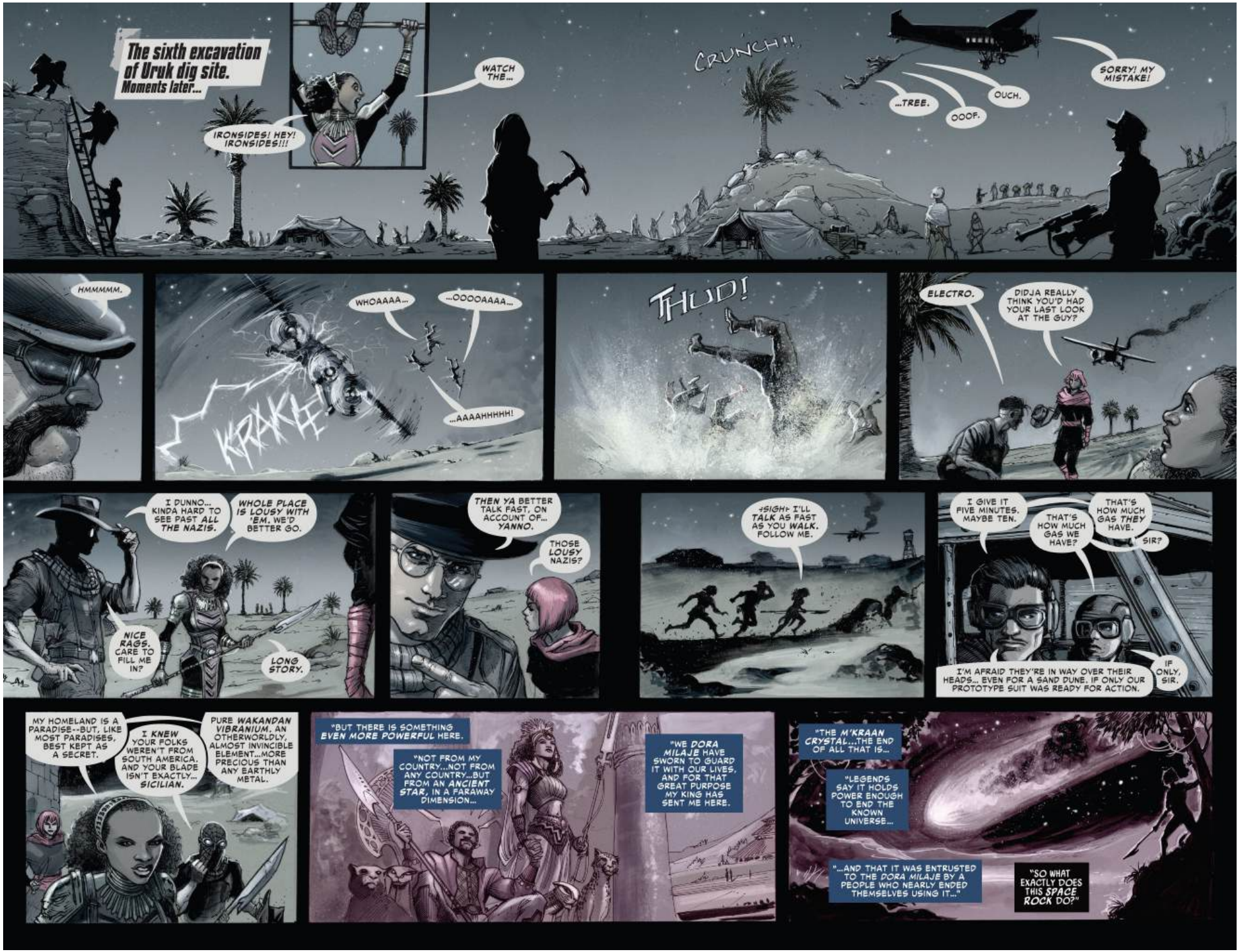
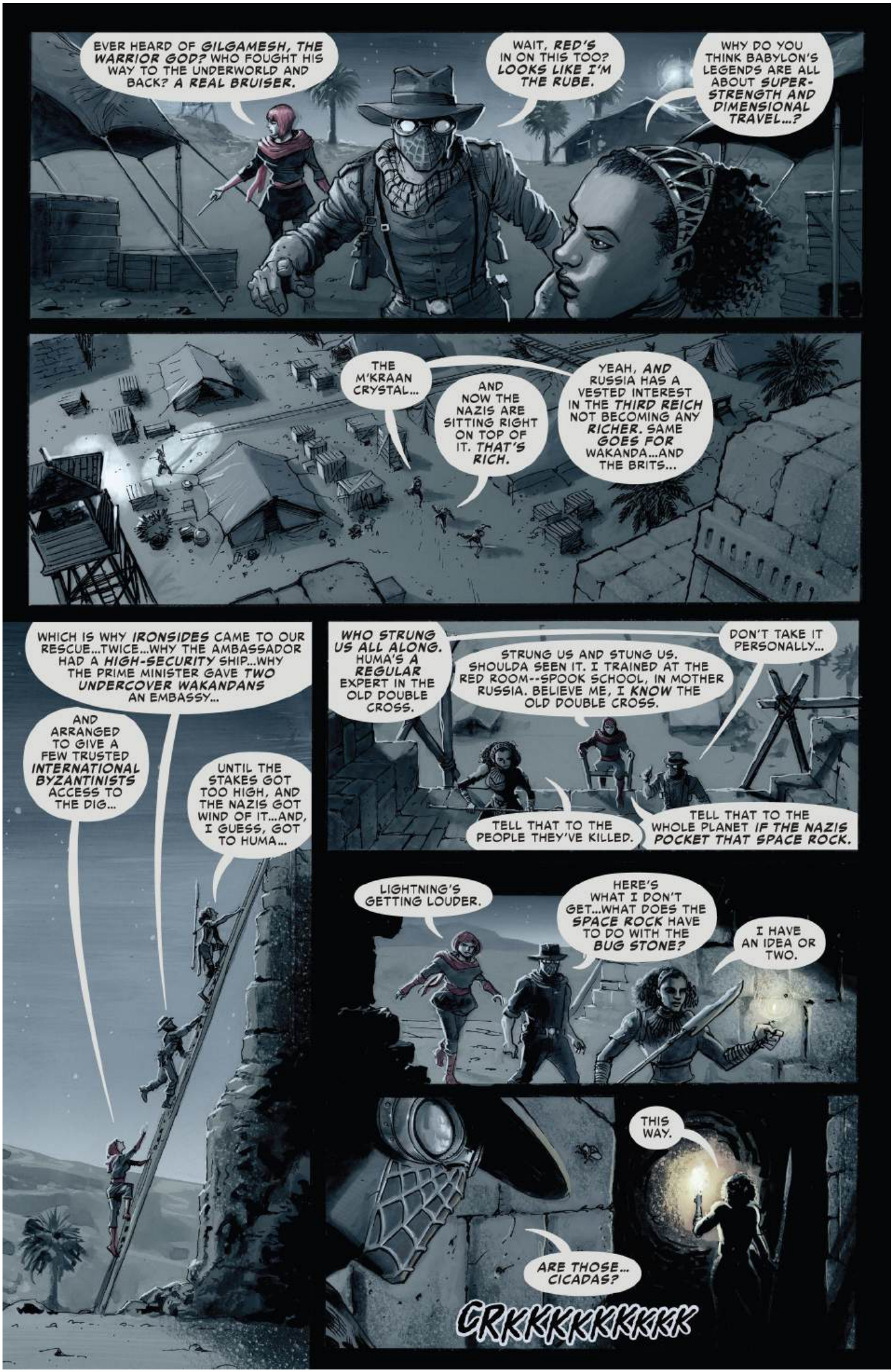
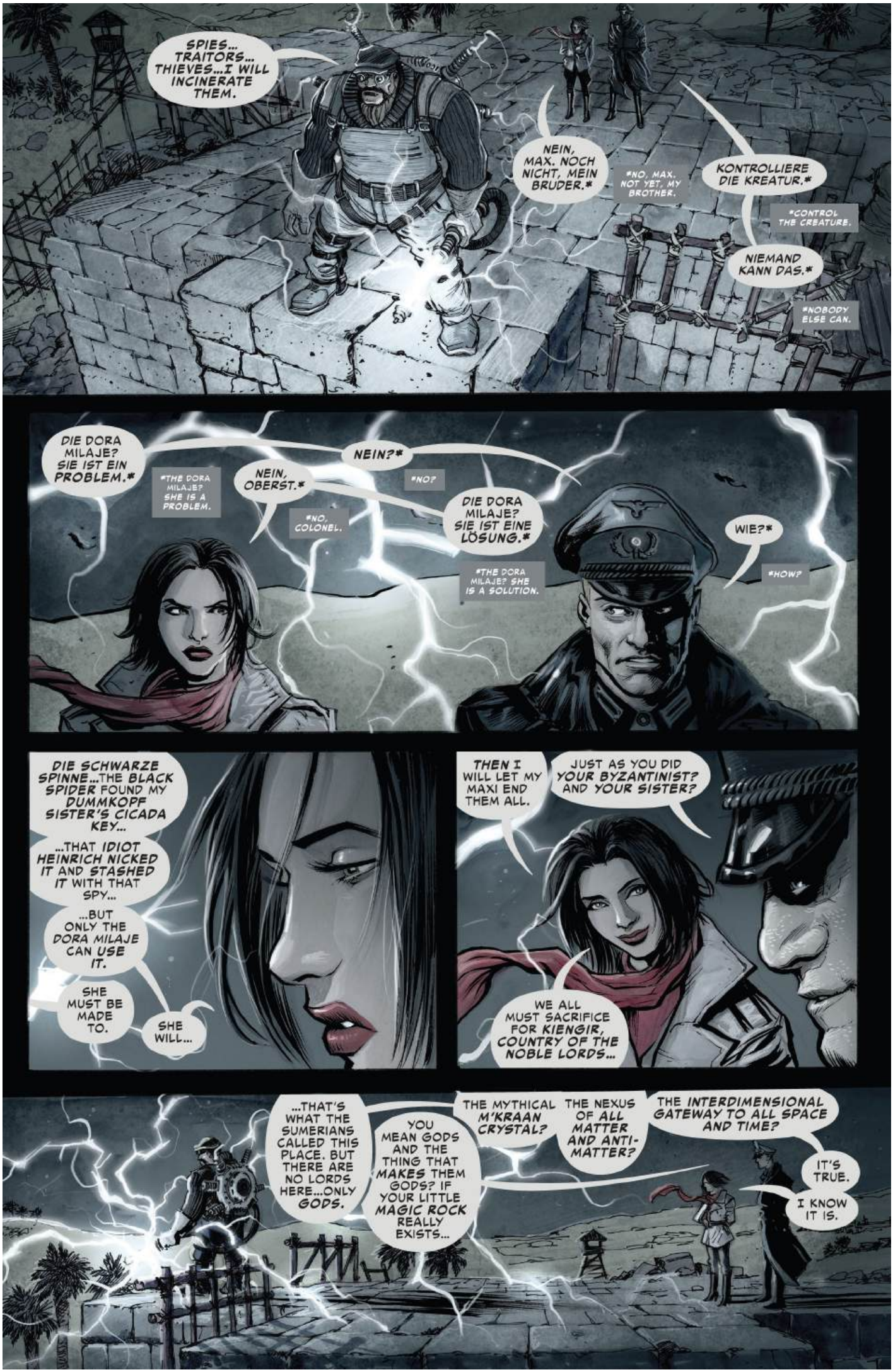
In the desert surrounding the sixth excavation of Uruk, Babylon...
...MINUTES AFTER LEARNING THAT HUMA BERGMANN IS A NAZI COLLABORATOR... AND PETER PARKER IS THE CHUMP WHO NEVER SAW IT COMING...
...A PILOT NAMED HARRY CHARLES MUST MAKE A DECISION.
TO JOIN THIS FIGHT? OR TO LEAVE IT TO THE SPIES AND THE SPIDERS?
KA-THUMP
KA-THUMP
KA-THUMP
NICHT BEWEGEN!*
*DON'T MOVE!
SIE! KNIEN!*
*YOU! KNEEL!
HER HEART POUNDS.
HARRY KNOWS THEY ARE OUTNUMBERED. HARRY ALSO KNOWS THEIR LIKELIHOOD OF ESCAPE IS NO LARGER THAN A SINGLE GRAIN OF SAND...
WIE SCHNELL SIE KAPITULIERT!*
*HOW QUICKLY SHE SURRENDERS!
SCHWÄCHLING!*
*WEAKLING!
BUT HARRY ALSO KNOWS SOMETHING ELSE.
THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO LOSE A BATTLE, BUT ONLY ONE BATTLE THAT CANNOT BE LOST...

...THIS ONE.
SCHWÄCHLING?!?! YOU GOONS THINK I'M A WEAKLING?!?! ME?!?!
KRAK
OOOOF!!!
NEIN.
I AM HU-RI!
KEEPER OF SECRETS...
GUARDIAN OF THE TOMB...
PROTECTOR OF THE LOST TREASURE THAT SLEEPS BENEATH THIS SAND!
THE HEART OF WAKANDA BEATS IN ME...
...AS IT DOES IN ALL DORA MILAJE.
SHAAASSHHH!!!
MAY MY BLADES...
PROVE...
SLUUUURK!!!
...TRUE!
NYYOOOWWWW
REINFORCEMENTS. GREAT. WHERE'S THE CAVALRY WHEN YOU NEED IT?
CAVALRY SHOWED UP ALL RIGHT...IT'S JUST NOT OURS.
HURRY! WE NEED TO TAKE COVER!
LISTEN, KITTEN: IT'S A DESERT.
RATTATATTATAT RATTATATTATAT
THE DIG SITE! I KNOW A SECRET WAY IN. COME ON!
HEAR THAT PLANE? IT'S GETTING CLOSE...

GET DOWN! GET DOWN!
NYYOOO-OOWWW
RATTATATTA
WHO'S FLYING THAT THING? A MANIAC?
YEAH, OUR MANIAC! THAT'S IRONSIDES' PLANE!!!
OUR CAVALRY?! IT'S ABOUT TIME!
NE!-- OOOF!!!
WHAAAOOHH!!!
ICH BIN GETROFF--!!!
RAT-TATATTATATATATTA
BOOM
TAT-TATAT
HOO-HAH! DIRECT HIT! GOOD OL' IRONSIDES. AS USUAL, MY TIMING IS--
IMPECCABLE, SIR.
WHICH IS WHY I PAY MYSELF--
THE BIG BUCKS. YES, I KNOW, SIR.
HOLD ON, PEACHES. WE'RE GOING BACK IN.
HOLDING, SIR.
VYYOOOOWWW
BLAST HIM OUT OF THE SKY!!!
PEW PEW PEW
PEW PEW PEW
PEW PEW PEW
COME ON, IRONSIDES. JUST A LITTLE LOWER...
HOLD ON.
HOLD UP.
TRUST ME?
WHO, ME?
I DON'T TRUST.
THWIP!!
JUST KEEP TALKING...
HUH?
AND MAYBE DON'T LOOK DOWN.
HU-RI! GRAB ON!
THREE... TWO...ONE...
KRAK
GOT IT!
WHOOSHHH
PEW PEW PEW PEW PEW PEW
AFTER THEM!!!


The sixth excavation of Uruk dig site.
Moments later...
IRONSIDES! HEY! IRONSIDES!!!
WATCH THE...
CRUNCH!!
...TREE.
OOOF.
OUCH.
SORRY! MY MISTAKE!
HMMMMM.
WHOAAAA...
...OOOOAAAA...
KRAKK!
...AAAAHHHHH!
THUD!
ELECTRO.
DIDJA REALLY THINK YOU'D HAD YOUR LAST LOOK AT THE GUY?
I DUNNO... KINDA HARD TO SEE PAST ALL THE NAZIS.
WHOLE PLACE IS LOUSY WITH 'EM. WE'D BETTER GO.
NICE RAGS. CARE TO FILL ME IN?
LONG STORY.
THEN YA BETTER TALK FAST, ON ACCOUNT OF... YANNO.
THOSE LOUSY NAZIS?
-SIGH- I'LL TALK AS FAST AS YOU WALK. FOLLOW ME.
I GIVE IT FIVE MINUTES. MAYBE TEN.
THAT'S HOW MUCH GAS WE HAVE?
THAT'S HOW MUCH GAS THEY HAVE.
SIR?
I'M AFRAID THEY'RE IN WAY OVER THEIR HEADS... EVEN FOR A SAND DUNE. IF ONLY OUR PROTOTYPE SUIT WAS READY FOR ACTION.
IF ONLY, SIR.
MY HOMELAND IS A PARADISE--BUT, LIKE MOST PARADISES, BEST KEPT AS A SECRET.
I KNEW YOUR FOLKS WEREN'T FROM SOUTH AMERICA. AND YOUR BLADE ISN'T EXACTLY... SICILIAN.
PURE WAKANDAN VIBRANIUM. AN OTHERWORLDLY, ALMOST INVINCIBLE ELEMENT...MORE PRECIOUS THAN ANY EARTHLY METAL.
"BUT THERE IS SOMETHING EVEN MORE POWERFUL HERE.
"NOT FROM MY COUNTRY...NOT FROM ANY COUNTRY...BUT FROM AN ANCIENT STAR, IN A FARAWAY DIMENSION...
"WE DORA MILAJE HAVE SWORN TO GUARD IT WITH OUR LIVES, AND FOR THAT GREAT PURPOSE MY KING HAS SENT ME HERE.
"THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL...THE END OF ALL THAT IS...
"LEGENDS SAY IT HOLDS POWER ENOUGH TO END THE KNOWN UNIVERSE...
"...AND THAT IT WAS ENTRUSTED TO THE DORA MILAJE BY A PEOPLE WHO NEARLY ENDED THEMSELVES USING IT..."
"SO WHAT EXACTLY DOES THIS SPACE ROCK DO?"

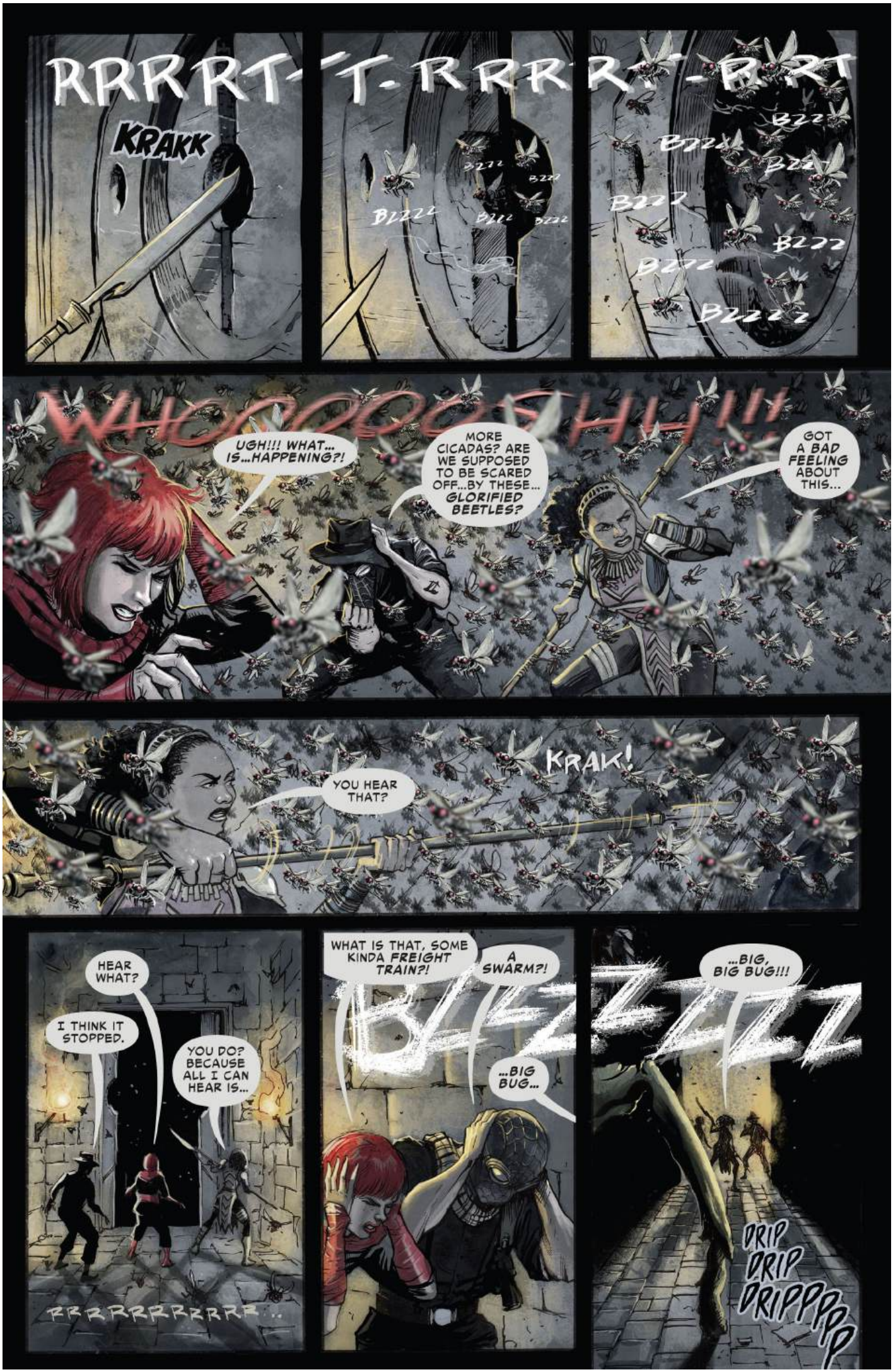

EVER HEARD OF GILGAMESH, THE WARRIOR GOD? WHO FOUGHT HIS WAY TO THE UNDERWORLD AND BACK? A REAL BRUISER.
WAIT, RED'S IN ON THIS TOO? LOOKS LIKE I'M THE RUBE.
WHY DO YOU THINK BABYLON'S LEGENDS ARE ALL ABOUT SUPER-STRENGTH AND DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL...?
THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL...
AND NOW THE NAZIS ARE SITTING RIGHT ON TOP OF IT. THAT'S RICH.
YEAH, AND RUSSIA HAS A VESTED INTEREST IN THE THIRD REICH NOT BECOMING ANY RICHER. SAME GOES FOR WAKANDA...AND THE BRITS...
WHICH IS WHY IRONSIDES CAME TO OUR RESCUE...TWICE...WHY THE AMBASSADOR HAD A HIGH-SECURITY SHIP...WHY THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE TWO UNDERCOVER WAKANDANS AN EMBASSY...
AND ARRANGED TO GIVE A FEW TRUSTED INTERNATIONAL BYZANTINISTS ACCESS TO THE DIG...
UNTIL THE STAKES GOT TOO HIGH, AND THE NAZIS GOT WIND OF IT...AND, I GUESS, GOT TO HUMA...
WHO STRUNG US ALL ALONG. HUMA'S A REGULAR EXPERT IN THE OLD DOUBLE CROSS.
STRUNG US AND STUNG US. SHOULDA SEEN IT. I TRAINED AT THE RED ROOM--SPOOK SCHOOL, IN MOTHER RUSSIA. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW THE OLD DOUBLE CROSS.
DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY...
TELL THAT TO THE PEOPLE THEY'VE KILLED.
TELL THAT TO THE WHOLE PLANET IF THE NAZIS POCKET THAT SPACE ROCK.
LIGHTNING'S GETTING LOUDER.
HERE'S WHAT I DON'T GET...WHAT DOES THE SPACE ROCK HAVE TO DO WITH THE BUG STONE?
I HAVE AN IDEA OR TWO.
THIS WAY.
ARE THOSE... CICADAS?
CRKKKKKKKKK


SPIES... TRAITORS... THIEVES...I WILL INCINERATE THEM.
NEIN, MAX. NOCH NICHT, MEIN BRUDER.*
*NO, MAX. NOT YET, MY BROTHER.
KONTROLLIERE DIE KREATUR.*
*CONTROL THE CREATURE.
NIEMAND KANN DAS.*
*NOBODY ELSE CAN.
DIE DORA MILAJE? SIE IST EIN PROBLEM.*
*THE DORA MILAJE? SHE IS A PROBLEM.
NEIN, OBERST.*
*NO, COLONEL.
NEIN?*
*NO?
DIE DORA MILAJE? SIE IST EINE LÖSUNG.*
*THE DORA MILAJE? SHE IS A SOLUTION.
WIE?*
*HOW?
DIE SCHWARZE SPINNE...THE BLACK SPIDER FOUND MY DUMMKOPF SISTER'S CICADA KEY...
...THAT IDIOT HEINRICH NICKED IT AND STASHED IT WITH THAT SPY...
...BUT ONLY THE DORA MILAJE CAN USE IT.
SHE MUST BE MADE TO.
SHE WILL...
THEN I WILL LET MY MAXI END THEM ALL.
JUST AS YOU DID YOUR BYZANTINIST? AND YOUR SISTER?
WE ALL MUST SACRIFICE FOR KIENGIR, COUNTRY OF THE NOBLE LORDS...
...THAT'S WHAT THE SUMERIANS CALLED THIS PLACE. BUT THERE ARE NO LORDS HERE...ONLY GODS.
YOU MEAN GODS AND THE THING THAT MAKES THEM GODS? IF YOUR LITTLE MAGIC ROCK REALLY EXISTS...
THE MYTHICAL M'KRAAN CRYSTAL?
THE NEXUS OF ALL MATTER AND ANTI-MATTER?
THE INTERDIMENSIONAL GATEWAY TO ALL SPACE AND TIME?
IT'S TRUE.
I KNOW IT IS.

IT BETTER BE. FOR YOUR SAKE.
TOO
KRKKCK!!
MUCH
KRAKLLLE!!!
TALKING!
HUNH.
AARRRHH!
KRKKKK!!
BOOOOM
KRAKLE!
AUF WIEDERSEHEN, MEIN OBERST.
MY STONE! WE MUST BE GETTING CLOSE TO THE CRYSTAL NOW! BECAUSE, MY MAXI...IT'S...

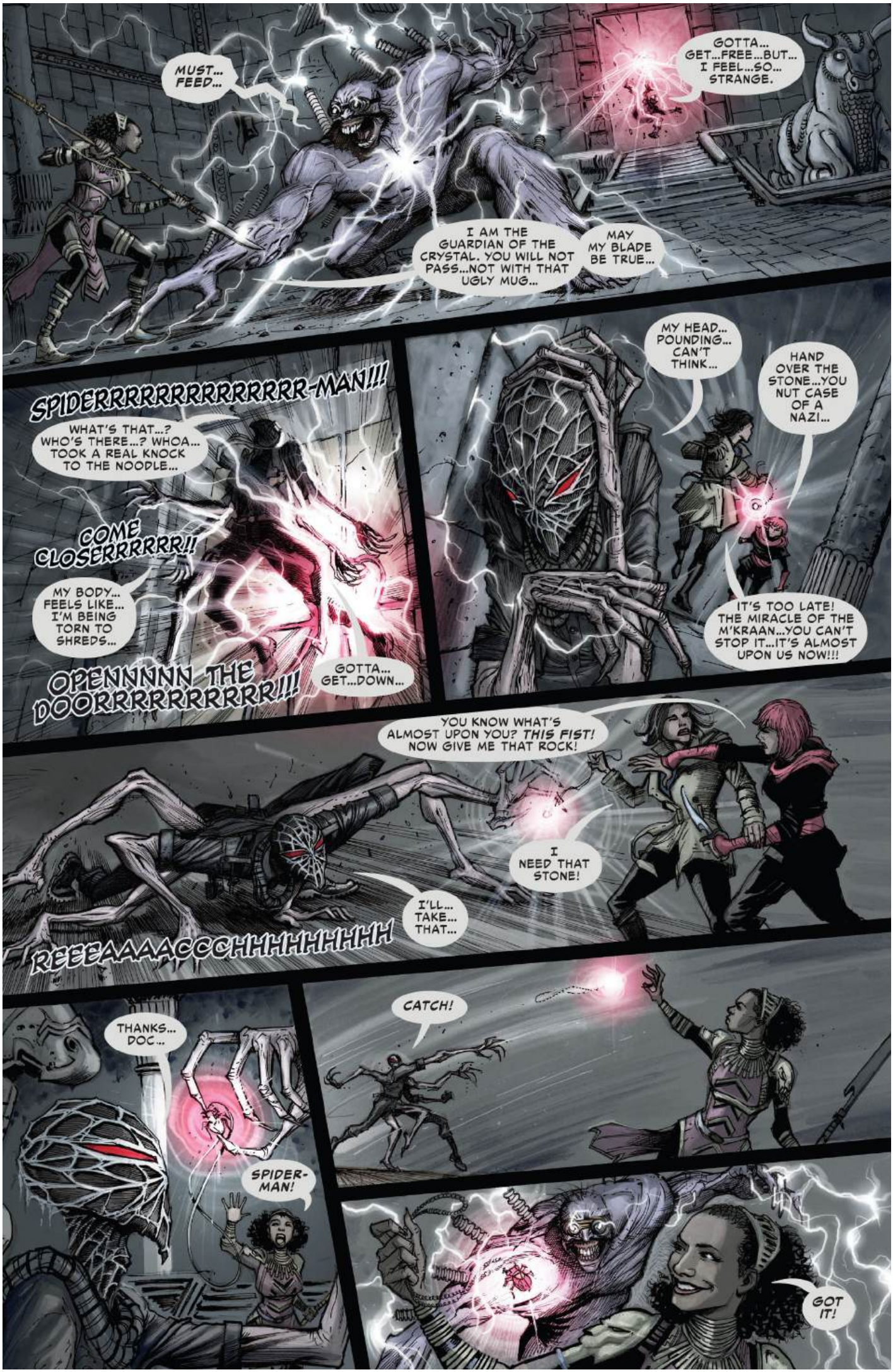
...MAKING YOU MATTER.
GRRROOOOWWLL!
THIS POWER NEEDS FEEDING!
SHOW... ME...THE... OTHERS!!!

Deep beneath the ruins of Babylon...
SEE THAT CARVING? LOOK FAMILIAR?
SAME PATTERN AS THE CICADA STONE...!
UGH. THAT'S ONE BIG BUG.
ELECTRO-SIZED, EVEN.
BIG ELECTRO? WHO WAS SUCKING THE LIFE OUT OF ISTANBUL LAST TIME I SAW HIM?
"HE USED TO BE JUST A PAPARAZZO-SIZED FELLA WITH A CRAZY TRICK FLASH. BUT NOW..."
THEY SAY THE CRYSTAL ACTS IN UNPREDICTABLE WAYS.
LIKE...BIG NAZIS? THAT'S SOMETHING THE WORLD DOESN'T NEED.
SO WE CAN'T LET THEM GET THEIR MITTS ON IT.
THIRTY-FIVE LAYERS OF CITY BENEATH THE SAND...
FIVE KILOMETERS ACROSS...
FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY...
ALL HIDING A GIFT OF UNFORGETTABLE POWER FROM A FORGOTTEN UNIVERSE...
...AND THAT CICADA STONE IS SOMEHOW THE KEY TO ALL OF IT.
THEN WE'D BETTER FIGURE OUT WHY.
BETTER?
BETTER THAN WHAT? A STICK IN THE EYE?
BE CARE--
KRA-ACK!
--FUL.


RRRRT-T-RRRR-RRT
KRAKK
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZZ
WHOOOOOOHH!!!
UGH!!! WHAT... IS...HAPPENING?!
MORE CICADAS? ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE SCARED OFF...BY THESE... GLORIFIED BEETLES?
GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
YOU HEAR THAT?
KRAK!
HEAR WHAT?
I THINK IT STOPPED.
YOU DO? BECAUSE ALL I CAN HEAR IS...
RRRRRRRRRRR...
WHAT IS THAT, SOME KINDA FREIGHT TRAIN?!
A SWARM?!
BZZZ
...BIG BUG...
...BIG, BIG BUG!!!
ZZZZZ
DRIP DRIP DRIPPPPP

OKAY. I'VE HAD BETTER DAYS.
HOW ARE WE GONNA PLUG THIS BUG?!
ONE OF US IS A SPIDER, AND IT'S NOT ME. THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING.
FINE, FINE. I'LL TAKE...
BZZZZZZZ-BZZZZZZZZ-
BZZZZZZZZ-BZZZZZZZ
...THE HIGH ROAD.
BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM!
THE LOW ROAD NEEDS HELP, PAL. MY BULLETS BOUNCE RIGHT OFF THAT...SHELL... THING.
THWIIID!!
PING! PING! PING!! PING!
BZZZZZZZZZ--
DRIPPPPSLIPPPSLORKK
HISSSSSS
UGH. IT SWEATS ACID? THAT'S NEW.
BZZZZZZZZZZZ
HEY... OWWWWWW!
BE TRUE, BLADE.
WHOOSHHHHH
KATHUNKK
A CICADA THE SIZE OF A SHERMAN TANK. WHO'DA THUNK?
SPLATT
THE FARTHER IN WE GO, THE HINKIER EVERYTHING GETS.

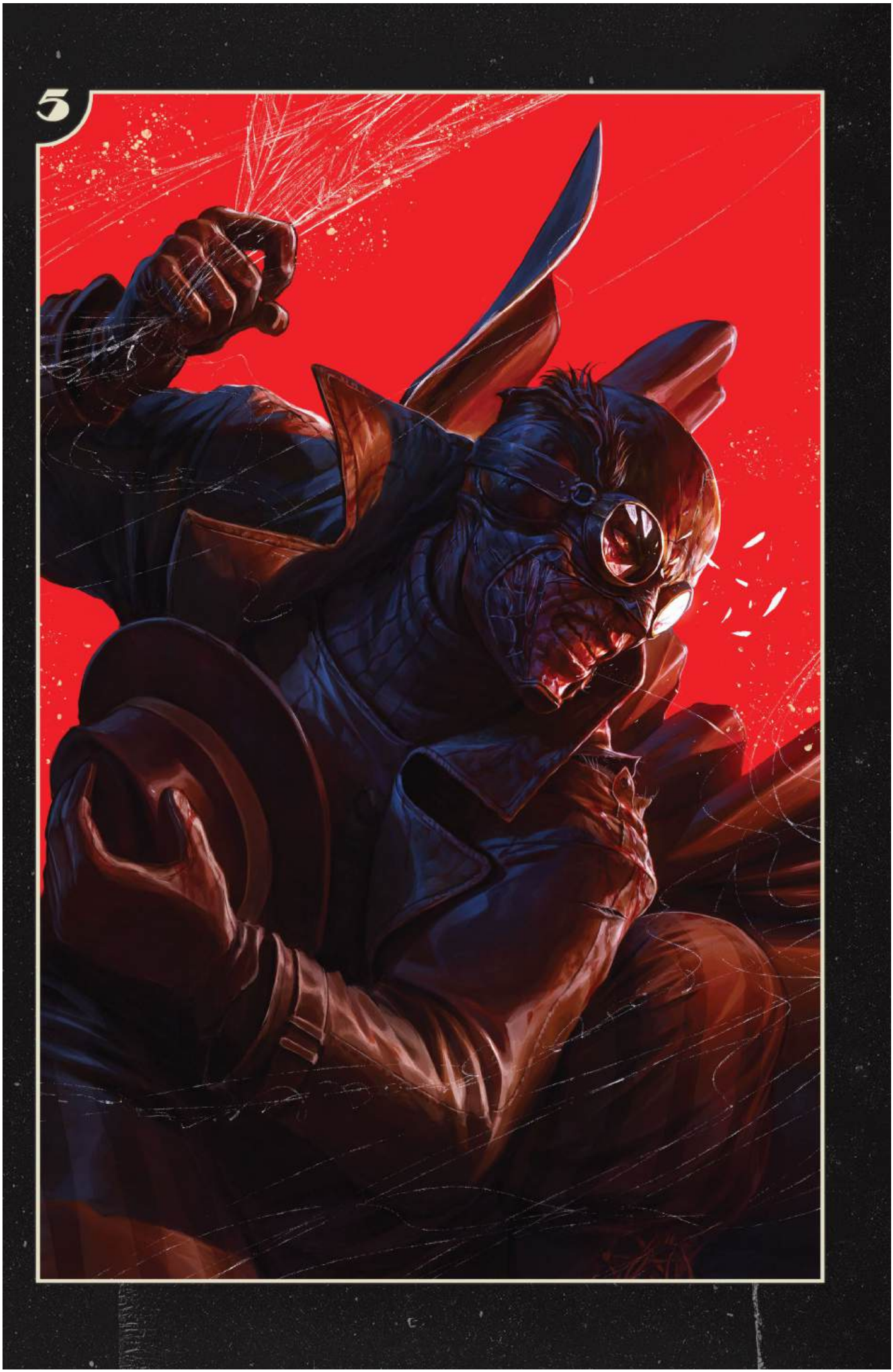
THE TEMPLE OF THE GODDESS INANNA... AND BY TEMPLE I MEAN CRYPT...
AND BY INANNA YOU MEAN THE GODDESS WHO SICCED THE BULL OF HEAVEN ON GILGAMESH...
SHE HAD ANGER ISSUES... AND A SISTER WHO RULED THE UNDERWORLD.
EVERY FAMILY HAS ONE.
THIS ONE HAD A FEW.
WHAT IS THAT?
THE TOMB OF HEAVEN. THE LAST STOP ON OUR JOURNEY TO THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL.
I FEEL STRANGE... I CAN ALMOST SENSE THE POWER COMING THROUGH THE DOOR...
ME TOO. KINDA WOOZY WITH IT. WHAT'S THE OTHER SIDE LIKE?
I DON'T KNOW. I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS FAR. I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN THE CRYSTAL. IT'S MY DUTY TO MAKE SURE NO ONE DOES...TO KEEP ITS SACRED SECRET...
BUT SOME SECRETS ARE TOO BIG TO KEEP FOR YOURSELF, PILOT PATTY...AIN'T THAT RIGHT, PIDGE?
HUMA!
IT'S JUST NOT POLITE NOT TO SHARE.
IRONIC, ISN'T IT? THAT I CAN DIG UP A FORTY-FIVE-THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD STONE KEY... FROM ACROSS THE GALAXY...BUT I STILL NEED A WAKANDAN GIRL SCOUT TO USE IT?
GO GET HER. IT'S TIME TO OPEN THE DAMN DOOR. THE CRYSTAL IS OURS.
GRRRRR...
ROARRRRRRR!!!
READY?!
READY!!!
HOLY TOLEDO. AND WE THOUGHT THE BUG WAS BIG...
BOOOMM
NOW!
KRAKKZAPPPP
LET... GO... CAN'T... MOVE...
ROARRR!


MUST... FEED...
GOTTA... GET...FREE...BUT... I FEEL...SO... STRANGE.
I AM THE GUARDIAN OF THE CRYSTAL. YOU WILL NOT PASS...NOT WITH THAT UGLY MUG...
MAY MY BLADE BE TRUE...
SPIDERRRRRRRRRRRRR-MAN!!!
WHAT'S THAT...? WHO'S THERE...? WHOA... TOOK A REAL KNOCK TO THE NOODLE...
COME CLOSERRRRR!!
MY BODY... FEELS LIKE... I'M BEING TORN TO SHREDS...
OPENNNNN THE DOORRRRRRRRR!!!
GOTTA... GET...DOWN...
MY HEAD... POUNDING... CAN'T THINK...
HAND OVER THE STONE...YOU NUT CASE OF A NAZI...
IT'S TOO LATE! THE MIRACLE OF THE M'KRAAN...YOU CAN'T STOP IT...IT'S ALMOST UPON US NOW!!!
YOU KNOW WHAT'S ALMOST UPON YOU? THIS FIST! NOW GIVE ME THAT ROCK!
I NEED THAT STONE!
I'LL... TAKE... THAT...
REEEAAAACCCHHHHHHHHH
THANKS... DOC...
SPIDER-MAN!
CATCH!
GOT IT!

KRAK!
SMASH
WHOOOSHH
HARRY?
IT'S HAPPENING!
HU-RI!
BOOOM!!

BUT...BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...!!!
YOU GOT THE BUMP. I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES. I CLIPPED YOU MYSELF...
WELCOME TO THE UNDERWORLD.
YOU'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!!!

#4 variant cover by **DECLAN SHALVEY**


5

THIS SPIDER-SELF--
--WITHOUT THE CICADA STONE, IT'S WEARING OFF.
KRRR-KRKKK-K
THUMP-THUMPPP
THUMP-THUMPPP
KRRR-KRRRR-KRKK
THANK GOD.
KRRRRRK-KRKK
SPIDERS? CICADAS...?
KKKKK-KKKK
HOW MANY MORE BUGS CAN CRAWL INTO ONE SORRY STORY?
WHOOSH
HURTS LIKE HELL, BUT THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW YOUR HEART'S STILL BEATIN'.
AND SPEAKIN' OF BEATIN'...

Uruk, Babylon.
Beneath the Temple of Inanna...
WE JOIN OUR HERO ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE TOMB OF HEAVEN...
(A.K.A. FRONT DOOR TO THE UNDERWORLD.)
...MINUTES AFTER DISCOVERING HUMA BERGMANN, NYC BYZANTINIST TURNED NAZI COLLABORATOR, HAS AN EVEN-MORE-SECRET SECRET IDENTITY...
(A.K.A. THE GODDESS INANNA.)
...SPIDER-MAN IS GETTING HIS KEISTER KICKED SIX WAYS TO SUNDAY!
WELCOME TO THE UNDERWORLD.
SANDMAN CALLS PAYBACK!
CHAMELEON CALLS FIRST DIBS!
THE GOBLIN CALLS LAST DIBS! I MEAN, HIS LAST...
I CALL--
OWWWWWW!
KRAK
FORGET IT, CHUMPS-- HE'S VULTURE MEAT!
PAYBACK STINGS, DON'T IT?
KRSHHHHHH
MUMPH OOMPH MUMMPH SPHHHHHH BLECHBLUHBLECH--
KAFF KAFF
ROUGH TRANSLATION: NEVER THOUGHT I'D SAY THIS, BUT I THINK I LIKED YA MOOKS BETTER ALIVE.
OH, BEING ALIVE AIN'T ALL THAT.
NOT WHEN YOU'RE SITTIN' ON TOP OF THE UNDERWORLD!
SLUURRP!!
GAK!?
YOU THROW A HUMDINGER OF A WELCOME PARTY, DOC!
YOU SAY YOU AREN'T A PARTY PERSON, PIDGE...

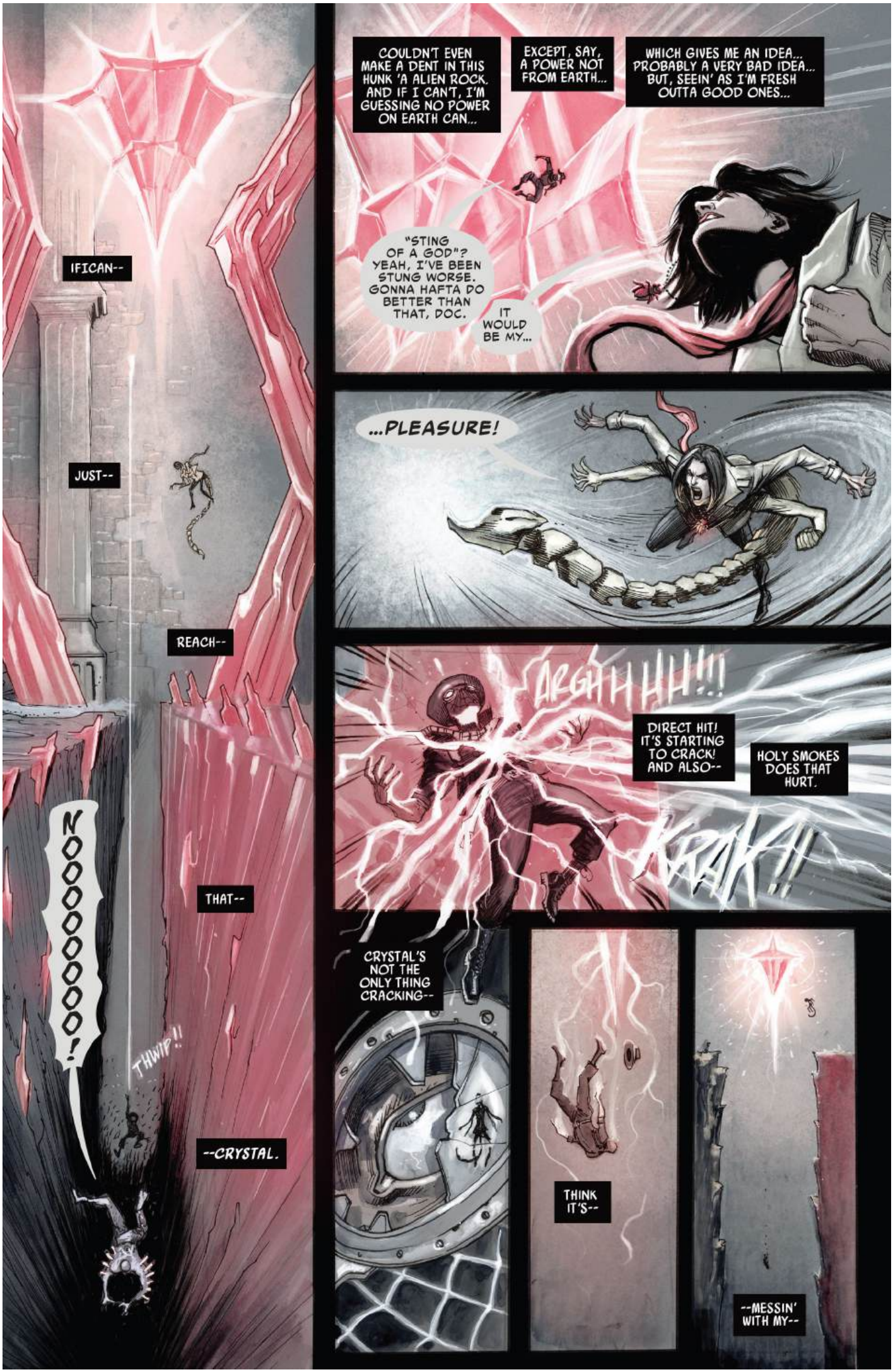
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE LIFE OF THIS PARTICULAR SHINDIG!
WHILE SHE'S DISTRACTED--SEE, UP THERE? THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL. BET THAT'S THE REASON ALL THESE SUPER VILLAINS ARE SO SUPER-CHARGED.
SO WE GOTTA SHUT THAT THING DOWN.
WHICH MEANS GETTING PAST THE GODDESS WITH THE SPARKLING PERSONALITY.
YOU KNOW TRYING TO STEAL A TREASURE FROM A GOD NEVER ENDS WELL, RIGHT?
YEAH? OH WELL, THEN FORGET IT.
THIS IS MY DUTY AS DORA MILAJE. BUT YOU CAN STILL BEAT IT BEFORE YOU'RE JUST--
ANOTHER DEAD HERO STUCK ON THE SIDE OF SOME VASE?
BINGO. THAT WORTH IT TO YA?
GUESS IT SORTA DEPENDS ON THE VASE...
WHOOOAHHHH!
AND ON THE HERO...
AND DEFINITELY ON THE GODDESS.
OH, COME ON, PIDGEY. TELL ME YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT.

JUST GOTTA ASK: FIVE SINISTER SINNERS I SCRATCHED ONCE ALREADY...?
...WHO SHOULDA STAYED SCRATCHED?!
DID YA HAFTA?!
CRAK!
SCRATCH THAT, SPIDER!
OOOOF!
I WOULDN'T SAY "HAVE TO"...BUT YOU KNOW ME, PIDGE.
DO I?
SOK!
NAH. FOR BAD'S MORE MY STYLE.
OWWWW--
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE. THE CRYSTAL. WHICH I'VE PROMISED TO SHARE--
YOU? SHARE? IF YA BUY THAT MALARKEY, I GOTTA BRIDGE...
--WITH WHOMEVER SENDS YOU TO THE UNDERWORLD FOR GOOD.
HOW 'BOUT I SQUISH THAT BIG HEAD OF HIS FOR GOOD?
ARRRRRGH!
UNCLE BEN SENDS HIS REGARDS.
OH. YOU.
ME. KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS?
FUNNY, I DO KNOW THAT FEELING.
GRROWLLL!
KRSHHHHHH

THE CRYSTAL IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO RESURRECT THE DEAD, AND ELECTRO IS PROOF POSITIVE OF WHAT IT DOES TO THE LIVING.
AHHRRRGHKHH!!!
KRAKKLE!
DID I SAY FIVE SINNERS?
LET'S MAKE IT AN EVEN SIX...
FIRST WE DISTRACT THE GODDESS. THEN WE GO FOR THE CRYSTAL.
AGREED. I'LL SHOOT, YOU SLICE.
BE TRUE, BLADE--
EAT LEAD, LADY--
BANG!
BANG!
KLANG!
TANG!
TING!
TANG!
HUNHHH?!
ZZZAPPPPPPFFFFFF
OOOOOF!
OWWWWW!
STUPID MORTALS!
CENTURY AFTER CENTURY, YOU NEVER LEARN!
AND I HAVE BEEN SO PATIENT!
WASTING MY PRECIOUS TIME...
...TRYING NOT TO RAIN...
STOMP!
KRAK!
KRAK!
...ON YOUR PATHETIC LITTLE PARADE...
UH-OH.
KRAK!
...WHEN I SHOULD BE FINDING AND PUNISHING ERESHKIGAL...*
SHOCK!
SHOCK!
SHOCK!
SHOCK!
*GET WISE AND READ SPIDER-MAN: NOIR #1-4 FOR THE SKINNY! --DEVIN
...MY ETERNAL ENEMY, MY SISTER, WHO CHOSE TO HIDE HERSELF AMONG YOU, RATHER THAN RETURN THE KEY AND CRYSTAL TO ME!

HUH? KEY AND CRYSTAL? ERESHKI-WHO? WHAT'S SHE YAMMERIN' ABOUT?
THE CICADA STONE AND THE M'KRAAN CRYSTAL. THE KEY TO THE WHOLE JALOPY AND THE ENGINE.
JUST ONE MORE REASON TO TAKE 'EM BOTH OUT.
GREAT STORY, BUT I THINK I'M MISSING A CHAPTER.
THWIP!!
LET'S SKIP AHEAD A FEW PAGES.
SWOOOOK!!!
UGHHHHH!
SEE, I'M MORE OF A FUNNY PAPERS GUY.
NOT AGAIN.
SECOND TIME'S THE CHARM.
SRAGK!!
SPIDER! LOOK OUT--
ROARRRRRRR!!!
HUH?

ZZAPPPF-
KRKKKKKKK
WOAHHHH-
AAAAH-OHHH!
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
PUNY INSECT!!!
THAT DARK CHASM BELOW YOU? WAY, WAY BELOW YOU? THAT'S THE UNDERWORLD. AND WE ALL KNOW HOW YOU HANDLE THE HEIGHTS.
I TOLD YOU ONCE ALREADY.* IT'S NOT THE HEIGHTS, DOC. IT'S THE DEPTHS--
*WAAAAY BACK IN SPIDER-MAN NOIR #1! - DEVIN
SPIDER, I'M GOING TO--
HEY HEY HEY WATCH THE--
KRKK
OOOOF.
--EDGE!!!
--SQUISH YOU!!!
LOOK DOWN, BUZZ BRAIN!
SPIDER!!!
NOT THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED, ARE YOU? DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE LADY?!
FOOLS! NOW YOU WILL KNOW WHAT THE STING OF A GOD FEELS LIKE!
CHASK!


IFICAN--
JUST--
REACH--
THAT--
--CRYSTAL.
NOOOOOOOO!
THWIP!!
COULDN'T EVEN MAKE A DENT IN THIS HUNK 'A ALIEN ROCK. AND IF I CAN'T, I'M GUESSING NO POWER ON EARTH CAN...
EXCEPT, SAY, A POWER NOT FROM EARTH...
WHICH GIVES ME AN IDEA... PROBABLY A VERY BAD IDEA... BUT, SEEIN' AS I'M FRESH OUTTA GOOD ONES...
"STING OF A GOD"? YEAH, I'VE BEEN STUNG WORSE. GONNA HAFTA DO BETTER THAN THAT, DOC.
IT WOULD BE MY...
...PLEASURE!
ARGHHHH!!!
DIRECT HIT! IT'S STARTING TO CRACK! AND ALSO--
HOLY SMOKES DOES THAT HURT.
KRAK!!
CRYSTAL'S NOT THE ONLY THING CRACKING--
THINK IT'S--
--MESSIN' WITH MY--

--HEAD.
HUH? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THE BLACK CAT
THE BLACK CAT? HOW'D I GET BACK TO WHERE THIS WHOLE MESS STARTED?

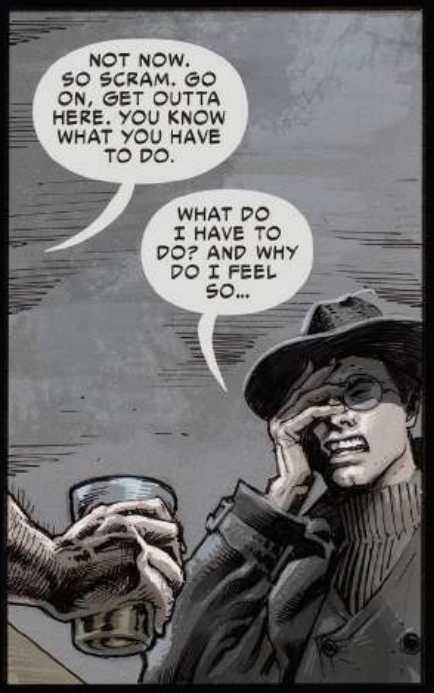
LAST TIME I WALKED IN, THE JOINT WAS RANSACKED AND HOLLY BABSON'S DEAD BODY WAS ON THE FLOOR.

WHY DOES THAT FELLA LOOK SO FAMILIAR?

UNCLE BEN?! I--I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
BELIEVE IT, PETE. YOU'RE LOOKIN'--AH, YOU'VE LOOKED BETTER.

I DIED, UNCLE BEN.
JOIN THE CLUB.
HAPPENED A FEW MONTHS AGO. IF THE SPIDER-GOD HADN'T BROUGHT ME BACK, I'D BE...WELL, JUST A HEAP 'A SAND.
SO YOU GOT A TASTE OF THE END? SO WHAT?
SO I SHOULDA STAYED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE I BELONGED. I CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE, UNCLE BEN.

CAN'T LIVE YOUR LIFE IN THE COLD SHADOW OF WHAT YOU CAN'T DO, PETER. DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING, AND IT SURE AS HECK DOESN'T MEAN YOU GIVE UP.
NO?


NOT NOW. SO SCRAM. GO ON, GET OUTTA HERE. YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO? AND WHY DO I FEEL SO...

...SO...

"...HINKY?"
GET UP, MR. PARKER. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
I KNOW THAT VOICE.
I KNOW THOSE GAMS.
HOLLY? HOLLY BABSON?
I HAVE MANY NAMES, MR. PARKER--
ERESHKIGAL IS WHAT MY SISTER INANNA CALLS ME.
ERESHKIGAL IS HOLLY BABSON?!
ONLY WHEN SHE'S SLINGING MEATLOAF AT THE BLACK CAT.
TALK ABOUT SIBLING RIVALRY. WHAT'S YOUR SISTER'S BEEF WITH YOU, ANYHOW?
MY SISTER'S BEEF BEGAN WHEN SHE WAS BANISHED FROM THE UNDERWORLD. SHE'D DO ANYTHING TO FIND A WAY BACK IN. BUT NOW I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU.
THE CICADA STONE? THAT OLD ROCK?
YOU DID ALL YOU COULD TO KEEP IT SAFE, MR. PARKER. THE UNIVERSE IS MORE THAN GRATEFUL.
GO FIGURE. HOLLY BABSON. REMEMBER THAT LITTLE NUMBER YOU USED TO SAY? WHEN YOUR SHIFT WAS ENDING?
"HOPE YOU'RE NOT WAITIN' FOR THAT EGG SALAD TO HATCH, MR. PARKER. TIME TO FINISH YOUR LUNCH."
AN' I'D SAY-- "DON'TCHA MEAN TIME TO SOLVE MY CASE?"
WHAT THE--
AND DID YOU? SOLVE YOUR CASE?
WHAT CASE? THE MYSTERY OF YOUR MURDER? OR YOUR SISTER'S RACKET?
MR. PARKER. PETER. THE MYSTERY WAS NEVER ABOUT MY SISTER OR EVEN ME.
I DON'T FOLLOW.
JUST LOOK AT THAT OLD ROCK, WILL YA?
YOU MEAN THE EGG? HEY, WHERE'D IT--
I MEAN, LOOK AT ME.

A SPIDER-TOTEM?! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
IS IT?

THE MYSTERY. IT'S ABOUT ME. AND YOU. YOU MADE ME INTO THIS-- SPIDER-THING.
NOW WHY WOULD I DO A HINKY THING LIKE THAT?

TO TORTURE ME? AM I STILL DEAD? IS THIS HELL?
THIS AIN'T THE FUNNY PAPERS, PETER.

WHAT THEN? TO TWEAK MY NOODLE?
GETTING WARMER. THINK, PETER--HOW IS IT THAT I'M INSIDE YOUR NOODLE RIGHT NOW?

THE CRYSTAL.

INDEED. WITH THE TWILIGHT OF WAR APPROACHING, IT HAD TO BE DESTROYED. OR THE UNIVERSE MIGHT HAVE BEEN.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU YANKED ME OUTTA THE BIG APPLE?

NO BIG APPLE WITHOUT THE BIG MARBLE. NO WORLD WITHOUT A UNIVERSE. WITH GREAT POWER MUST ALSO COME GREAT--

DON'T SAY IT.

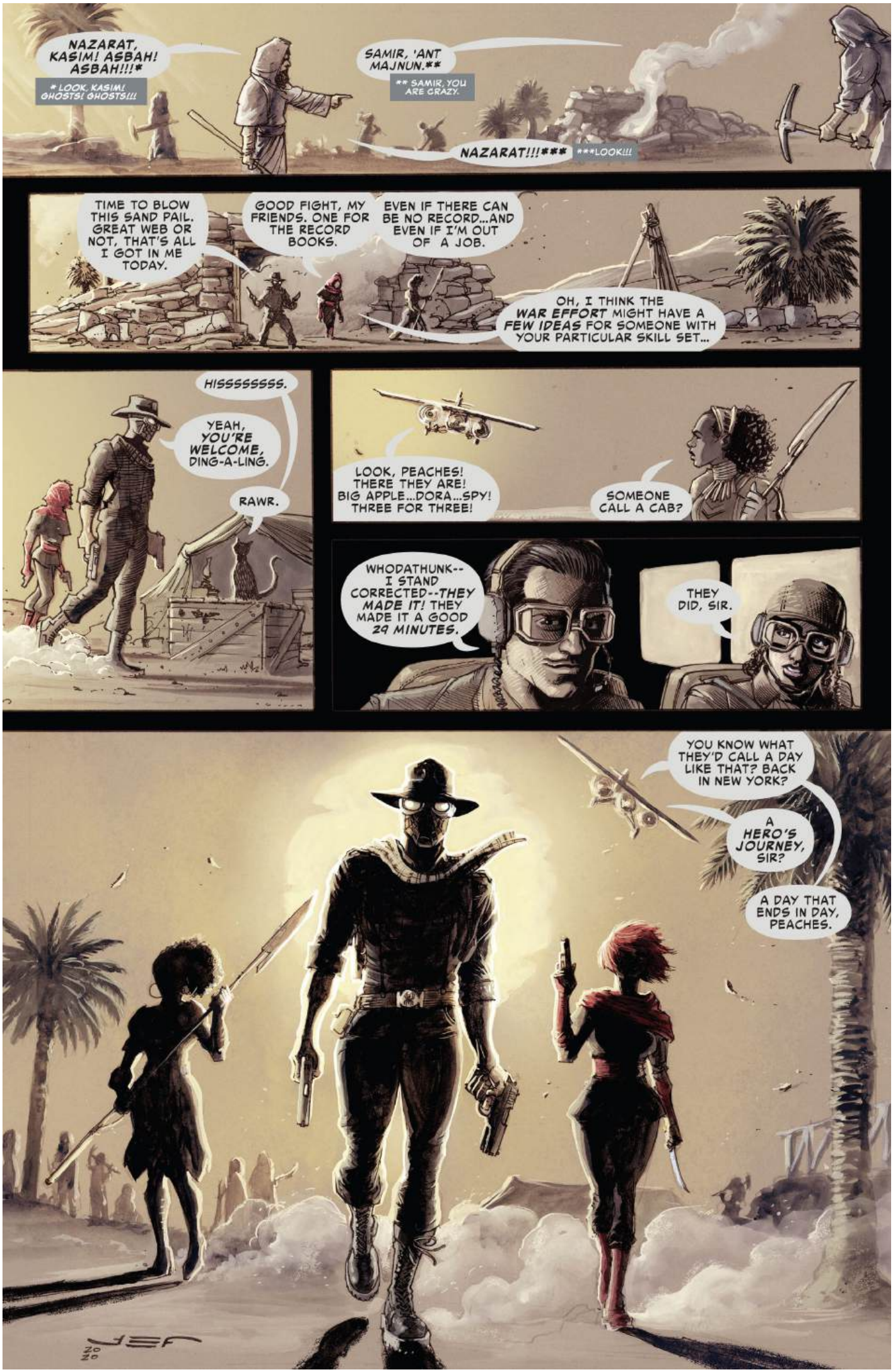
--RESPONSIBILITY. BUT NOT ONLY FOR GREAT THINGS.
THAT'S A NEW--

--TWIST.
This is...we are, all of us...
DING-DING? OH, COME ON.
...one web.
DING DING
HUH. GO FIGURE. I GUESS THE UNIVERSE KINDA IS HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF BOROUGHS, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
And so the great web pivots once more...but only with your help, Mr. Parker.
THAT'S SOME BIG TALK, DING-DING.
Quit yappin', go save the world--
OW!!!
SWISHHHH!!
DING-DING?
We've got company--
SURPRISE!
WAIT, ARE YOU REALLY--
WELL IF HE ISN'T ELECTRO, HE SURE HITS LIKE HIM!
SOK!

OOOF... EVEN UNDEAD ELECTRO...
...IS TOO MUCH OF A LIVE WIRE FOR ME.
ZAP!
FRY, SPIDER!
MEOW-RAWR
ARGH!
MEOWWWW-MMMMORPHHHH-RAWRRRRRR!!!
ARRGGGHH!
-BELCHHHHHHHHH.-
UH... THANK YOU?
TIME TO FINISH YOUR LUNCH, EH? ER... ERESHHOLLYKIDING DINGGAL?
TIME TO FINISH YOUR FIGHT, PETER. GO--
DEPTHS? HEIGHTS?!
OH YEAH, HATE 'EM BOTH!

PIDGE? YOU'RE ALIVE?!
I'LL TAKE THAT!
SO HERE'S THE THING. THE SPIDER-GOD WASN'T STUPID. IF IT GAVE ME BACK THE ROCK IN MY VISION, THERE HAD TO BE A REASON...
Snatch!
OH, THANK GOD.
WE THOUGHT--
WHAT ARE YOU--

I FIGURED MAYBE THE KEY TO FINDING THE CRYSTAL WAS ALSO THE KEY TO ENDING IT.
EITHER WAY, AT THIS POINT THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE.
KRASH!
BANG! BANG!
NOT UNLESS YOU HAPPENED TO BE THE OTHER GOD IN THE ROOM.
KABOOM!
NOOOOO--


NAZARAT, KASIM! ASBAH! ASBAH!!!*
* LOOK, KASIM! GHOSTS! GHOSTS!!!
SAMIR, 'ANT MAJNUN.**
** SAMIR, YOU ARE CRAZY.
NAZARAT!!!***
***LOOK!!!
TIME TO BLOW THIS SAND PAIL. GREAT WEB OR NOT, THAT'S ALL I GOT IN ME TODAY.
GOOD FIGHT, MY FRIENDS. ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS.
EVEN IF THERE CAN BE NO RECORD...AND EVEN IF I'M OUT OF A JOB.
OH, I THINK THE WAR EFFORT MIGHT HAVE A FEW IDEAS FOR SOMEONE WITH YOUR PARTICULAR SKILL SET...
HISSSSSSSS.
YEAH, YOU'RE WELCOME, DING-A-LING.
RAWR.
LOOK, PEACHES! THERE THEY ARE! BIG APPLE...DORA...SPY! THREE FOR THREE!
SOMEONE CALL A CAB?
WHODATHUNK-- I STAND CORRECTED--THEY MADE IT! THEY MADE IT A GOOD 29 MINUTES.
THEY DID, SIR.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'D CALL A DAY LIKE THAT? BACK IN NEW YORK?
A HERO'S JOURNEY, SIR?
A DAY THAT ENDS IN DAY, PEACHES.
JEF
20
20

Midtown Manhattan.
Months later.
AND NOW BACK TO "IT AIN'T THE FUNNY PAPERS"...RADIO NYC'S TRUE CRIME HOUR, RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES, WITH YOUR HOST, J. JONAH JAMESON...

AS THE WORLD FINDS ITSELF CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF WAR, THERE'S ANOTHER BATTLE, ONE FOUGHT IN THE LONELY SHADOWS OF EVERY NIGHT IN EVERY BOROUGH OF THE BIG APPLE'S OWN HOME FRONT...
SUNRISE IN BABYLON
Featuring the WARKA vase
LOOK DOWN THE BUSINESS END OF SOME MOOK'S GUN A FEW TIMES AND YOU'LL FIND SOMETHING DARK ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR TOES CURL AND YOUR BLOOD BOIL--DARK AS WHEN NAZI OPERATIVES INFILTRATED OUR FAIR CITY EARLIER THIS YEAR AND KIDNAPPED ONE OF OUR OWN--HUMA BERGMANN.

BUT WHEN YOU FIND THAT DARKNESS, YOU MAY ALSO FIND AN UP-AND-UP HERO, UNSUNG AND UNSEEN, A STREET SOLDIER WHOSE ONLY PAYOFF IS HONOR AND DUTY AND THE SAFETY OF FOLKS WHO NEVER EVEN KNOW WHAT ALMOST HIT 'EM.
AND WHILE WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHY DOC BERGMANN WAS DRAGGED ACROSS THE POND TO THAT DEADLY DUNE DIG SITE...EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS ARE SPARSE...
...WE DO KNOW SHE WASN'T THE ONLY NEW YORKER NOSING AROUND THAT NECK O' THE NAZI 'CROPOLIS...TALKIN' ABOUT A CERTAIN WALLCRAWLING STOOGE WITH A TASTE FOR TROUBLE...DON'T NEED TO BE TOMMY EDISON TO MAKE THAT MUG FOR WHAT HE IS...IN CAHOOTS WITH EVIL ITSELF!
BUT SOURCES SAY OUR BRAVE AND BEAUTIFUL BERGMANN NEVER GAVE UP ON BEATIN' BAD BACK...SCRAPPIN' TO THE END WITH THAT BIG APPLE SPIRIT... UNTIL I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THE RUINS RUINED HER AND THE SAND SWALLOWED HER...FOR GOOD.

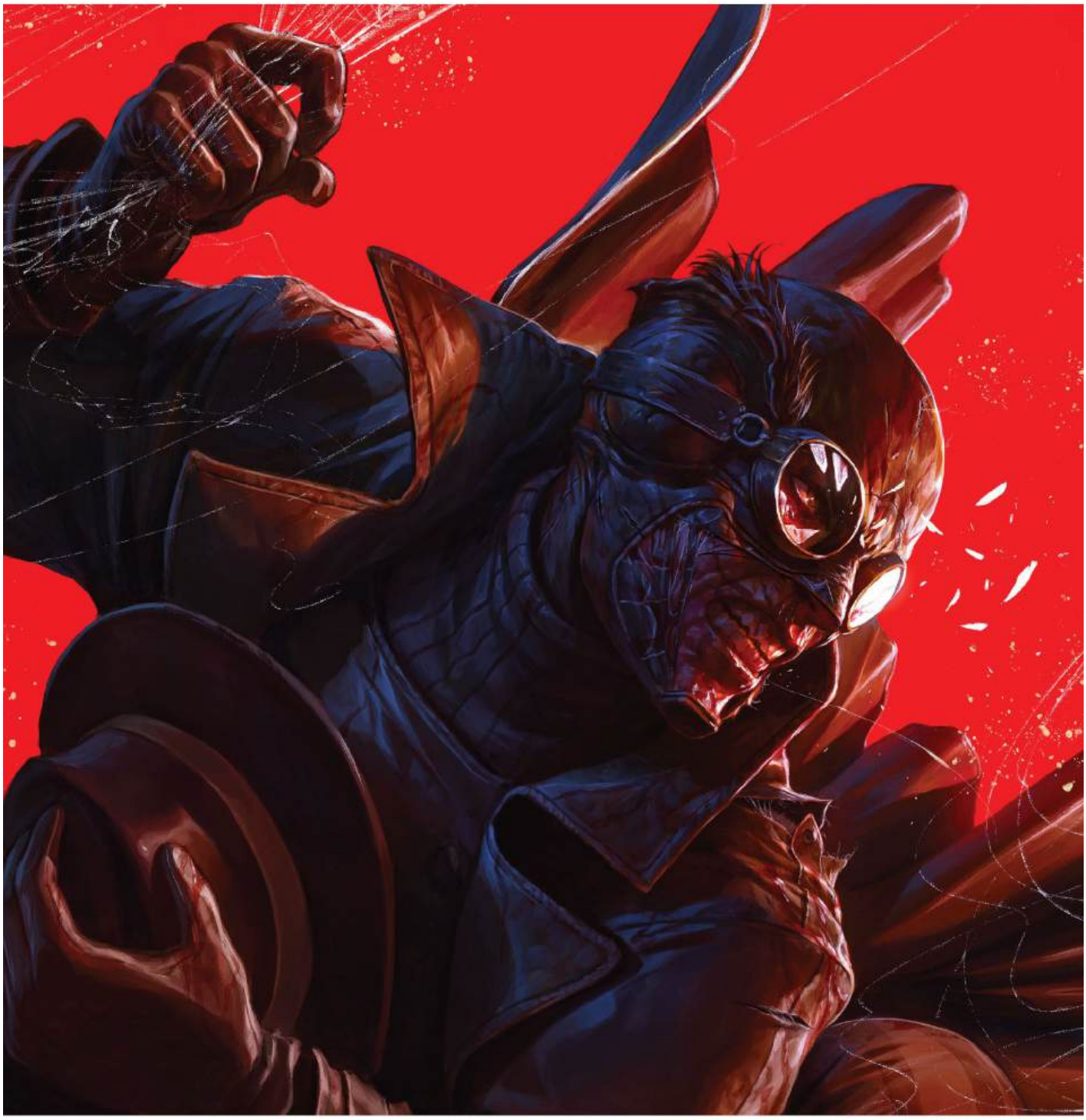
TO A NEWSPAPER MAN LIKE YOURS TRULY, A HERO LIKE THAT DESERVES A HEADLINE--EVEN IF THEY WON'T STICK AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO SEE IT.
SO ALL YOU CAN DO IS SAY IT YOURSELF, ON BEHALF OF THE GREAT CITY OF NEW YORK, AND ON BEHALF OF THE GREAT WORLD BEYOND THE HUDSON TOO.
THANK YOU, DR. HUMA BERGMANN.

...AND CURSE THAT INFERNAL SPIDER-MAN!
AHH, MISSED YOU TOO, JAMESON.
THE END! (FOR NOW)

"Stohl stays true to its characters and sets up an effectively mysterious tone and story, with Ferreyra's art providing it with a rainy and jazzy visual soundtrack." – Comic Watch

MURDER AND MYSTERY IN THE MIGHTY MARVEL MANNER!

DATELINE, 1939: As the specter of war looms on the horizon, a very noir Spider-Man fights the good fight at home. But when there's a murder at the Black Cat Nightclub and all clues point overseas, Spidey will have no choice but to board the next flight to Europe! After months of searching, the Nazis have discovered an ancient evil in a dig site on the other side of the world. And scrappy young reporter Peter Parker soon finds himself torn from his friendly neighborhood and thrust into the international action! Unsure who he can trust, the rookie gumshoe must embark on a globe-trotting adventure, encountering friend and foe alike – some of whom readers may find disturbingly familiar!



COLLECTING ***SPIDER-MAN NOIR (2020) #1-5*** –
BY MARGARET STOHL AND JUAN FERREYRA.

MARVEL